

MARVEL

4

KIM
ZAMA
JUNIOR
FARRELL

SPIDER-GWEN: SHADOW CLONES



WHEN TEENAGER GWEN STACY SUITS UP IN HER SYNTHETIC SYMBIOTIC SUIT, SHE GAINS AMAZING POWERS: A PRECOGNITIVE AWARENESS OF DANGER, ADHESIVE FINGERTIPS AND TOES AND THE PROPORTIONAL SPEED AND STRENGTH OF A SPIDER. NOW SHE USES HER POWERS FOR GOOD AS THE SUPER HERO CALLED GHOST-SPIDER. BUT YOU KNOW HER AS...

SPIDER-GWEN: SHADOW CLONES

RECENTLY, GWEN HAD A RUN-IN WITH THE DISPLACED SINISTER SIX OF EARTH-616, BUT SHE WAS SUCCESSFUL IN SENDING THEM BACK TO THEIR OWN DIMENSION. UNFORTUNATELY, THANKS TO A DELAYED VULTURE BOMB, A CITIZEN, DOCTOR LEE BENNETT, DIED.

MONTHS LATER, GHOST-SPIDER RAN INTO MULTIPLE CLONES OF HERSELF MIXED WITH DOC OCK AND SANDMAN! WITH THE HELP OF REED RICHARDS, THEY SUCCESSFULLY CREATED AN ALLIANCE.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE REMAINING VILLAIN CLONES KIDNAPPED REED RICHARDS! SPIDER-GWEN WENT TO SAVE HIM BUT WAS ALSO CAUGHT BY THE MASTERMIND BEHIND THE CLONES OPERATION, DOCTOR LYLA BENNETT. NOW LYLA IS OUT FOR VENGEANCE.

EMILY KIM

WRITER

KEI ZAMA

PENCILER

OREN JUNIOR

INKER

TRÍONA FARRELL

COLORIST

VC's ARIANA MAHER

LETTERER

DAVID NAKAYAMA

COVER ARTIST

**GREG LAND & FRANK D'ARMATA;
PEACH MOMOKO; ANNIE WU**

VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

ANTHONY GAMBINO DESIGNER

KAT GREGOROWICZ EDITOR

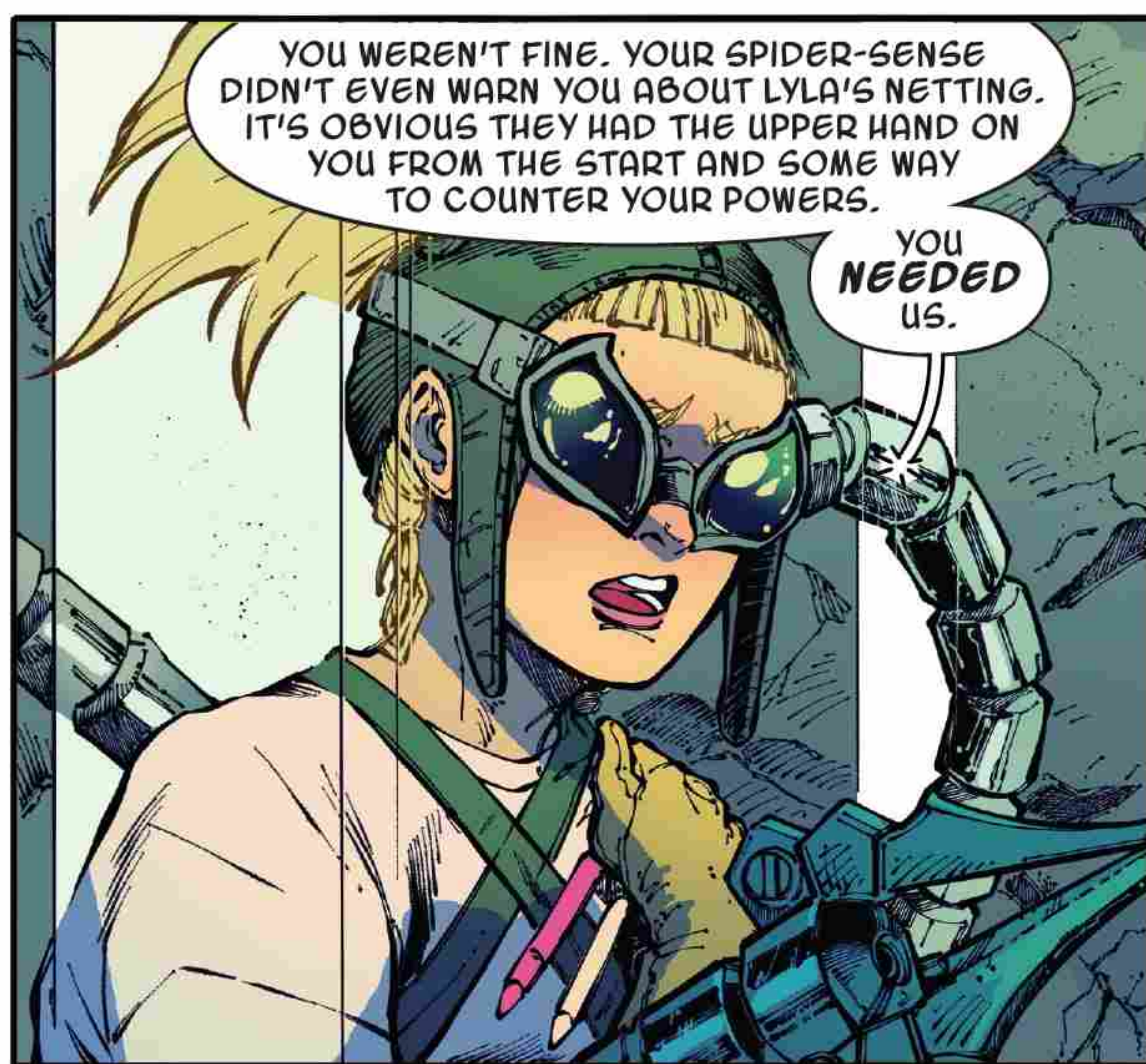
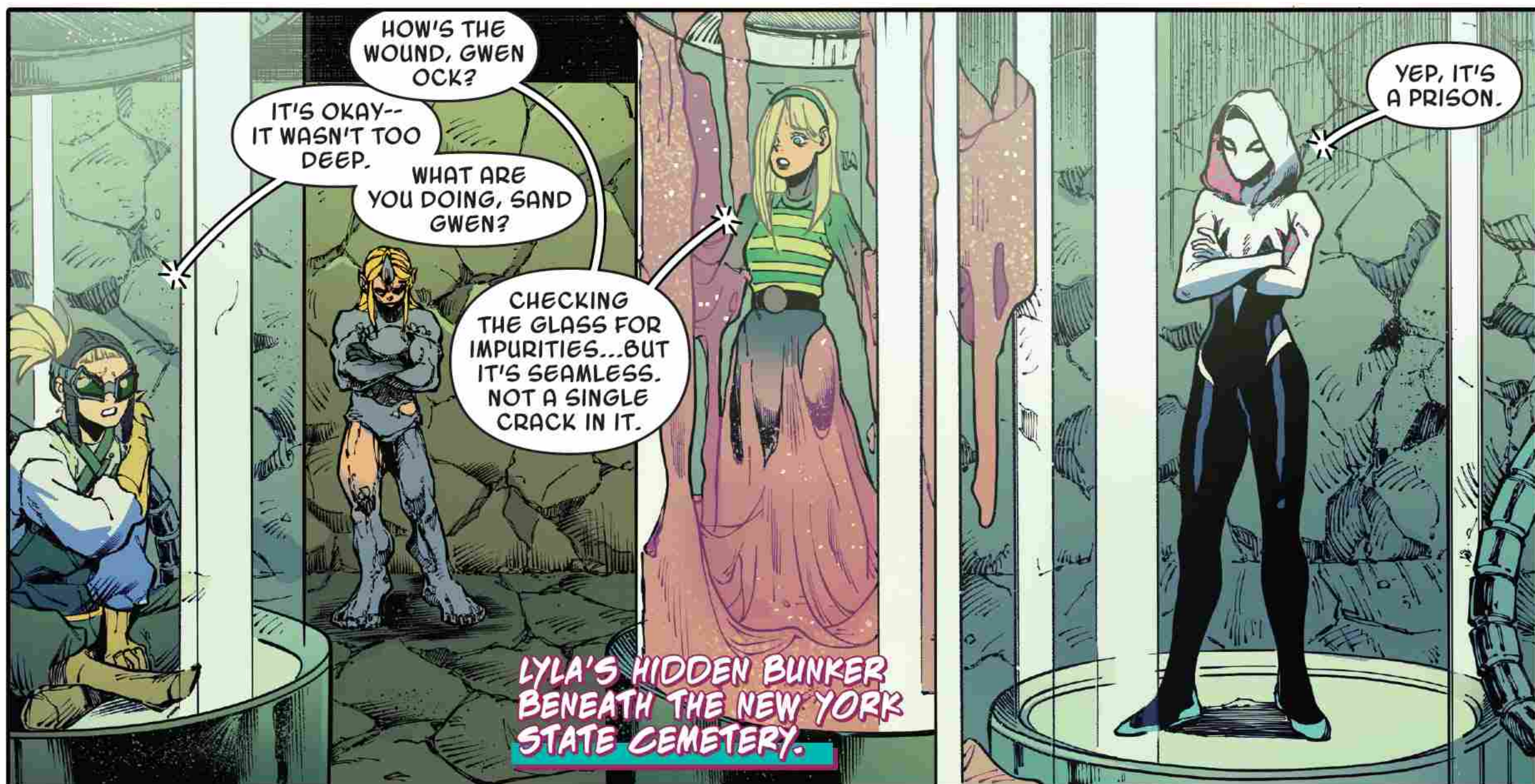
DARREN SHAN CONSULTING EDITOR

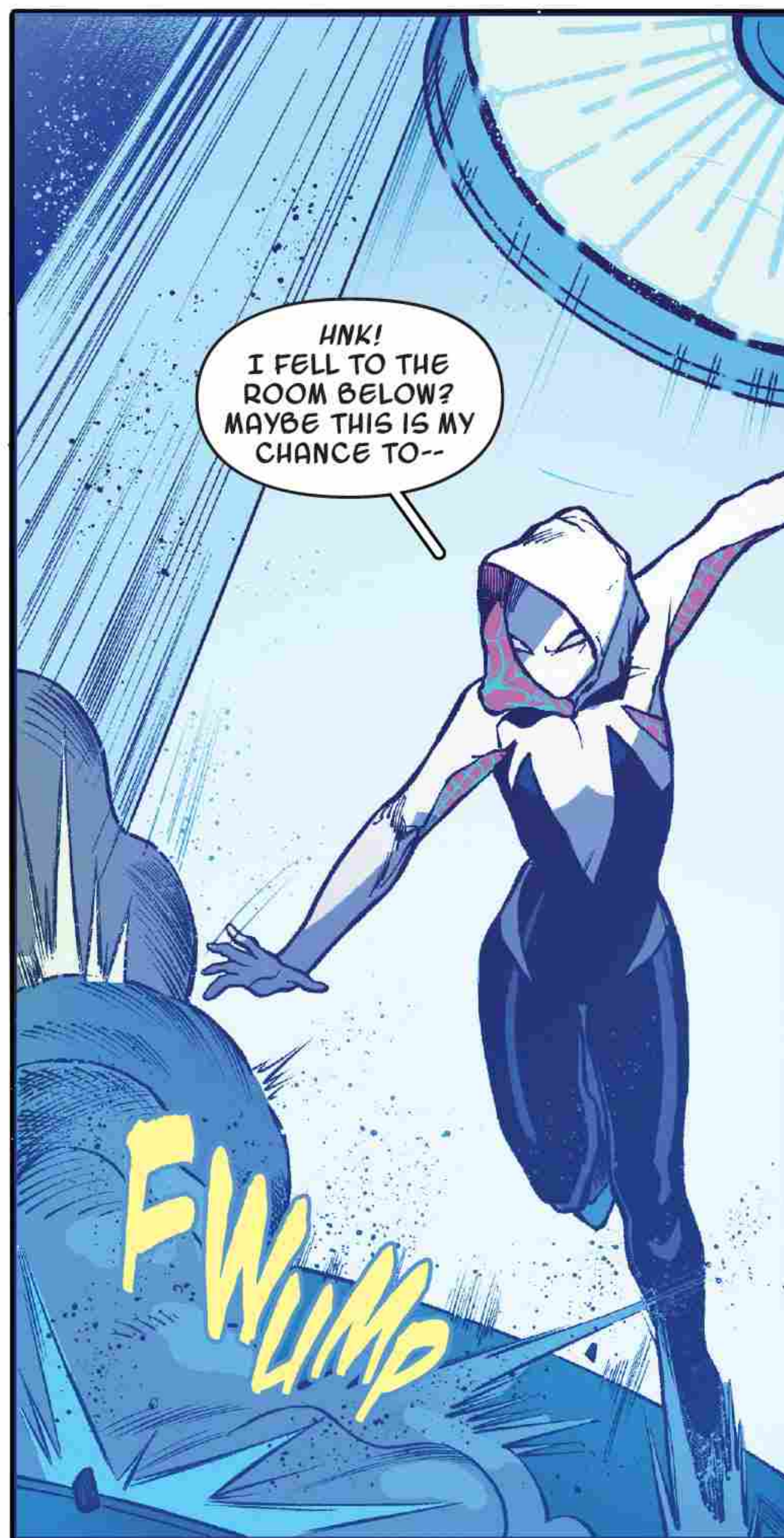
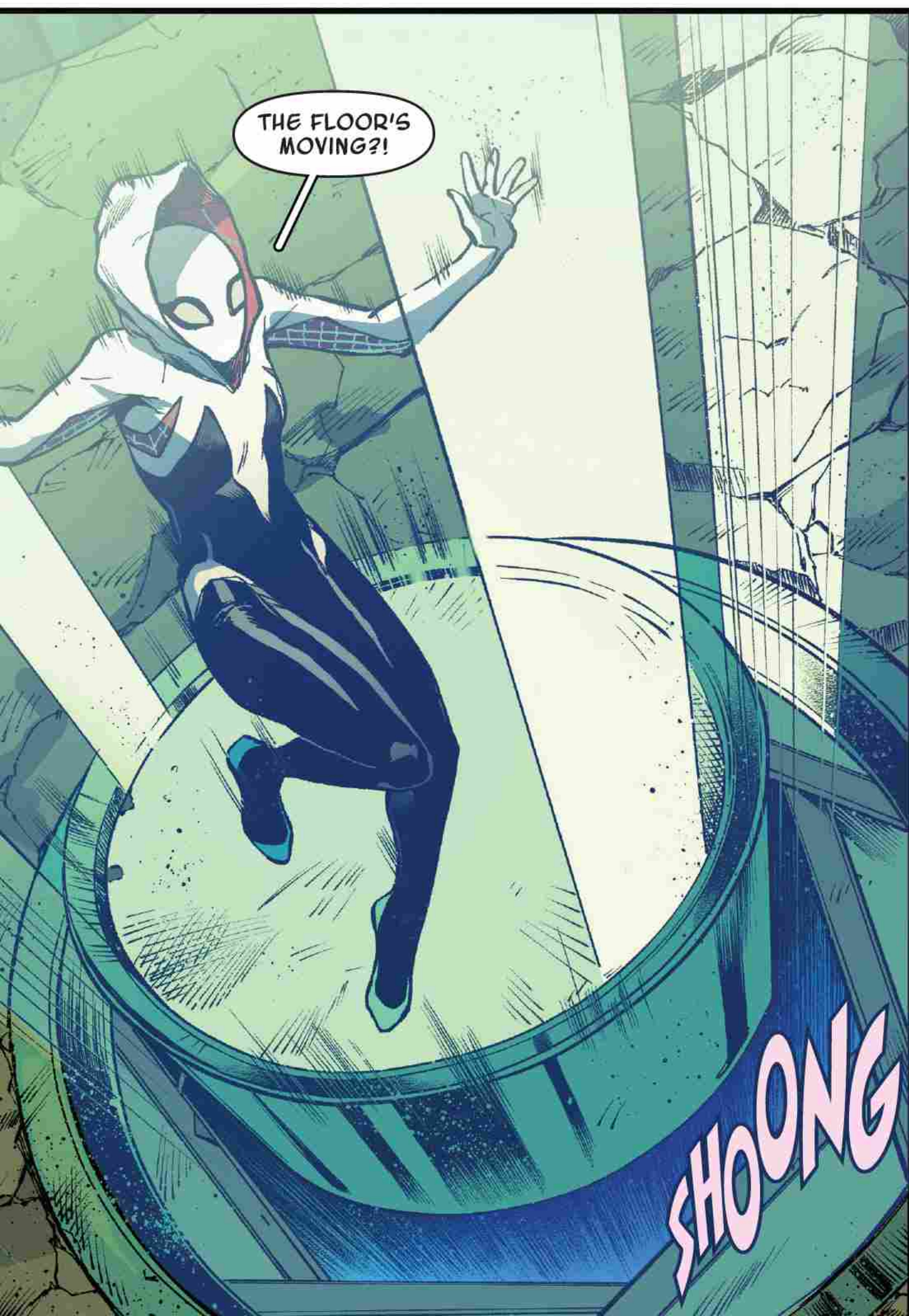
C.B. CEBULSKI EDITOR IN CHIEF

GWEN STACY CREATED BY
STAN LEE AND STEVE DITKO

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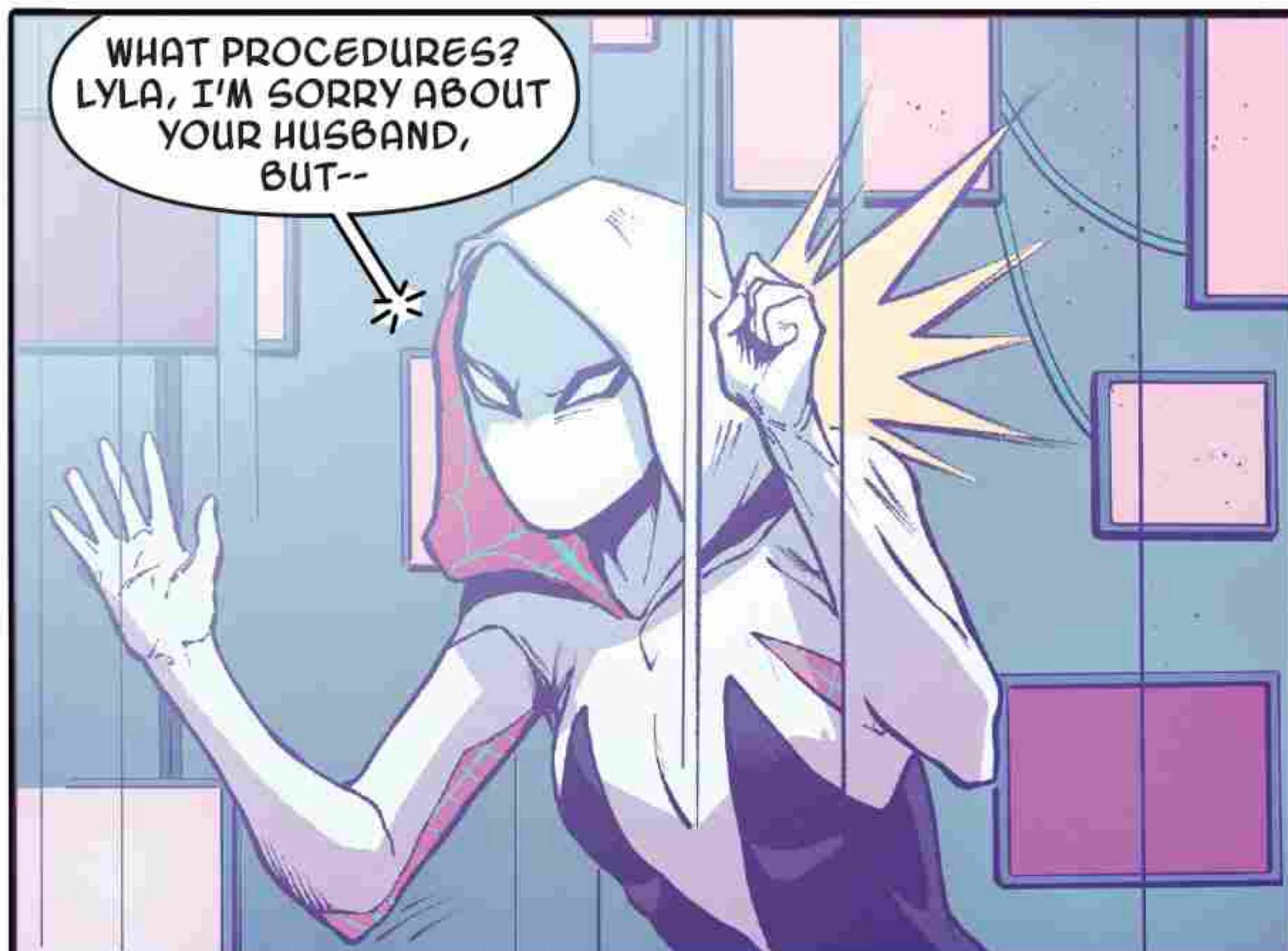


WHAT IN THE...?

THE PREPARATIONS FOR THIS PROCEDURE ARE EXTENSIVE DUE TO THE SENSITIVE NATURE OF THE FORCES AT WORK...



...SO I'D GET COMFORTABLE IF I WERE YOU.



WHAT PROCEDURES? Lyla, I'm sorry about your husband, but--



SILENCE!

NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF YOU DIDN'T EXIST... **YOU** TOOK AWAY EVERYTHING FROM ME. EVERYTHING I WORKED SO HARD TO BUILD.



"I HAD JUST FINISHED MY PHD IN ADVANCED GENETIC SOFTWARE ENGINEERING. SEVEN LONG YEARS.

"THOUGH MY HUSBAND LEE LIKED TO SAY, 'JUST A FEW MONTHS.' HE ALWAYS LOOKED AT THINGS THAT WAY--THROUGH ROSE-COLORED LENSES.

"YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN LEE'S FACE WHEN *TONY STARK* HIMSELF CAME TO OFFER ME A GRANT FOR MY WORK IN CLONE PROGRAMMING.

"MR. STARK SAID IT WAS THE BIGGEST GRANT HE'D EVER GIVEN TO A SINGLE RESEARCHER.



"HE THOUGHT CLONE PROGRAMMING WAS THE FUTURE AND I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD LEAD THE WAY.

"LEE WAS THERE EVERY STEP OF THE WAY--MY BIGGEST SUPPORTER.

"WITH THE GRANT, I HAD FIGURED OUT A WAY TO COMBINE THE LATEST ADVANCES IN A.I. WITH CUTTING-EDGE GENE-EDITING TECHNIQUES.

"I WAS ON THE VERGE OF BEING ABLE TO TRANSFER PERSONALITY AND MEMORY ENGRAMS FROM A SUBJECT ONTO THEIR GENETIC COPY.



"THE IMPLICATIONS WERE HUGE. PEOPLE WOULD NO LONGER NEED TO GROW OLD AND DIE.

"THEY'D SIMPLY BE ABLE TO *TRANSFER* THEIR PSYCHE INTO A NEW BODY.



"I WAS ON THE PRECIPICE OF BECOMING ONE OF THE GREATEST SCIENTISTS THIS WORLD HAD EVER SEEN.

"I HAD SUCCESS, I HAD LOVE...

"BUT THEN IT ALL CAME CRASHING DOWN.

"BECAUSE OF YOU..."



"...MY WORK...MY LEE...ALL DESTROYED IN AN INSTANT. ALL BECAUSE YOU BROUGHT YOUR SUPER-HERO FIGHT TO OUR DOORSTEP.



COME BACK! GHOST-SPIDER, WE NEED HELP!



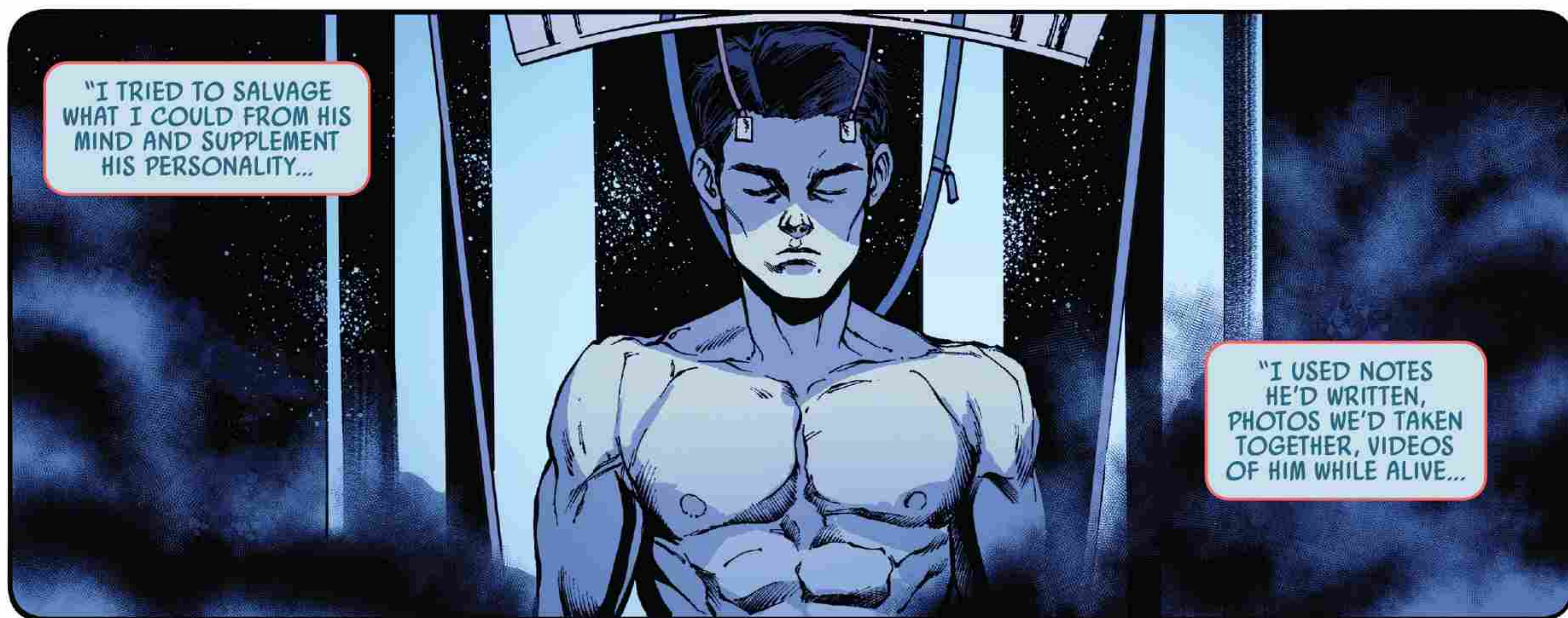
HELP US. WE NEED YOU...I NEED YOU...



"OF COURSE, I IMMEDIATELY TRIED TO BRING LEE BACK BY CLONING HIM.

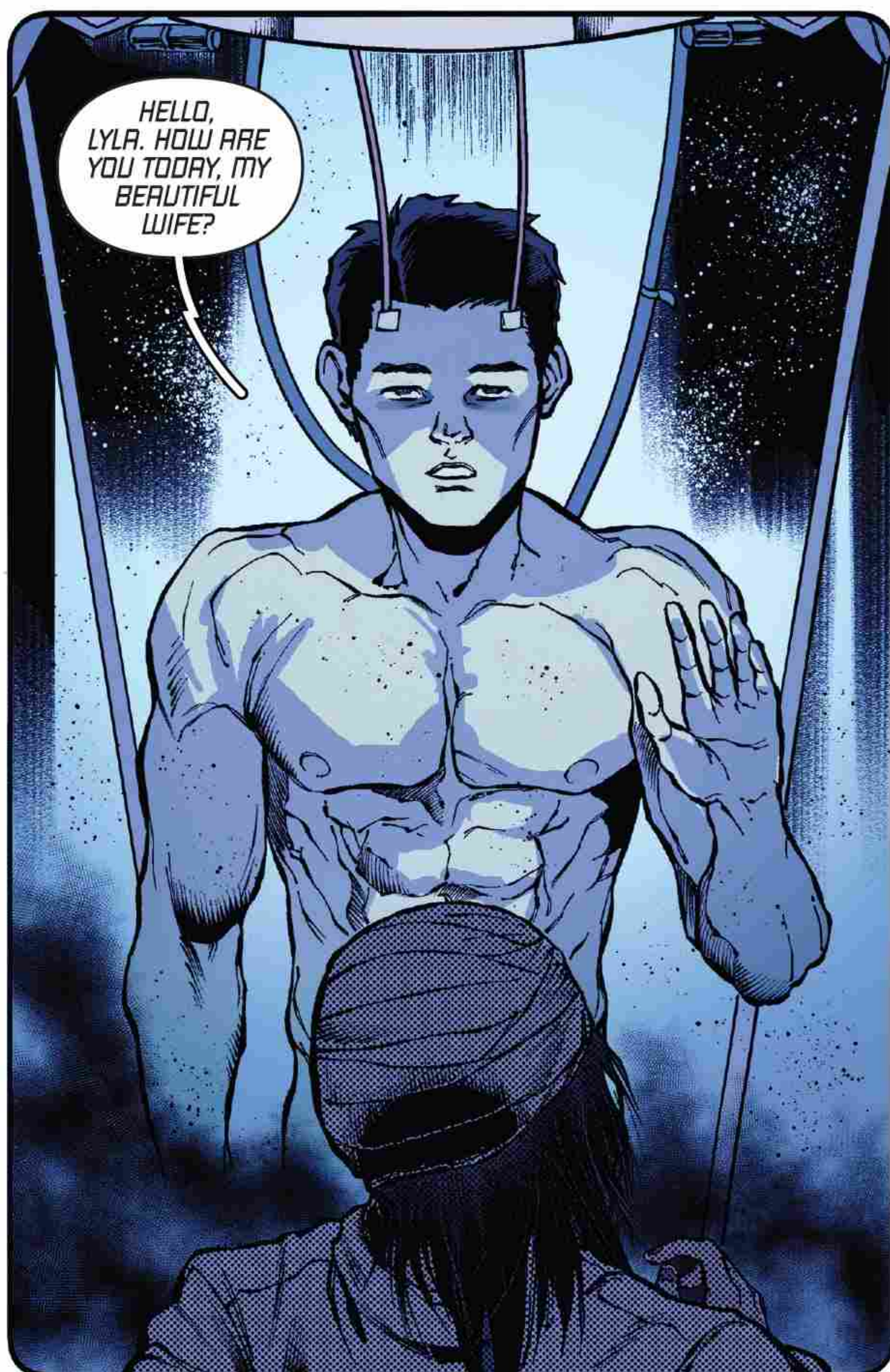


"BUT MY TECH REQUIRES LIVING SUBJECTS. AFTER DEATH, THE ENGRAMS DEGRADE TOO QUICKLY TO BE VIABLE.



"I TRIED TO SALVAGE WHAT I COULD FROM HIS MIND AND SUPPLEMENT HIS PERSONALITY...

"I USED NOTES HE'D WRITTEN, PHOTOS WE'D TAKEN TOGETHER, VIDEOS OF HIM WHILE ALIVE...



HELLO, LYLIA. HOW ARE YOU TODAY, MY BEAUTIFUL WIFE?



"BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH... IT WASN'T REALLY HIM... IT COULD NEVER BE. IT WAS JUST...A *SHADOW*.

YOU AREN'T MY LEE! YOU AREN'T REAL!

REPORTING LIVE, WE'VE GOT AN EXCLUSIVE WITH THE WOMAN BEHIND IT ALL...

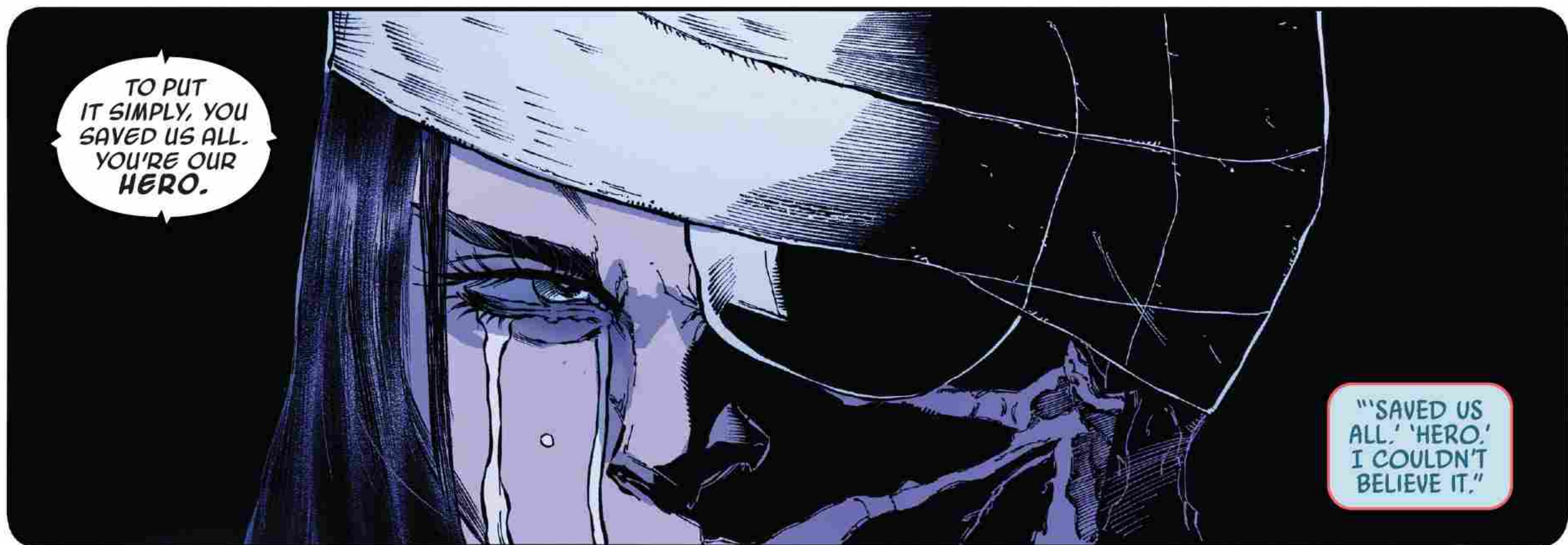


...GHOST-SPIDER!



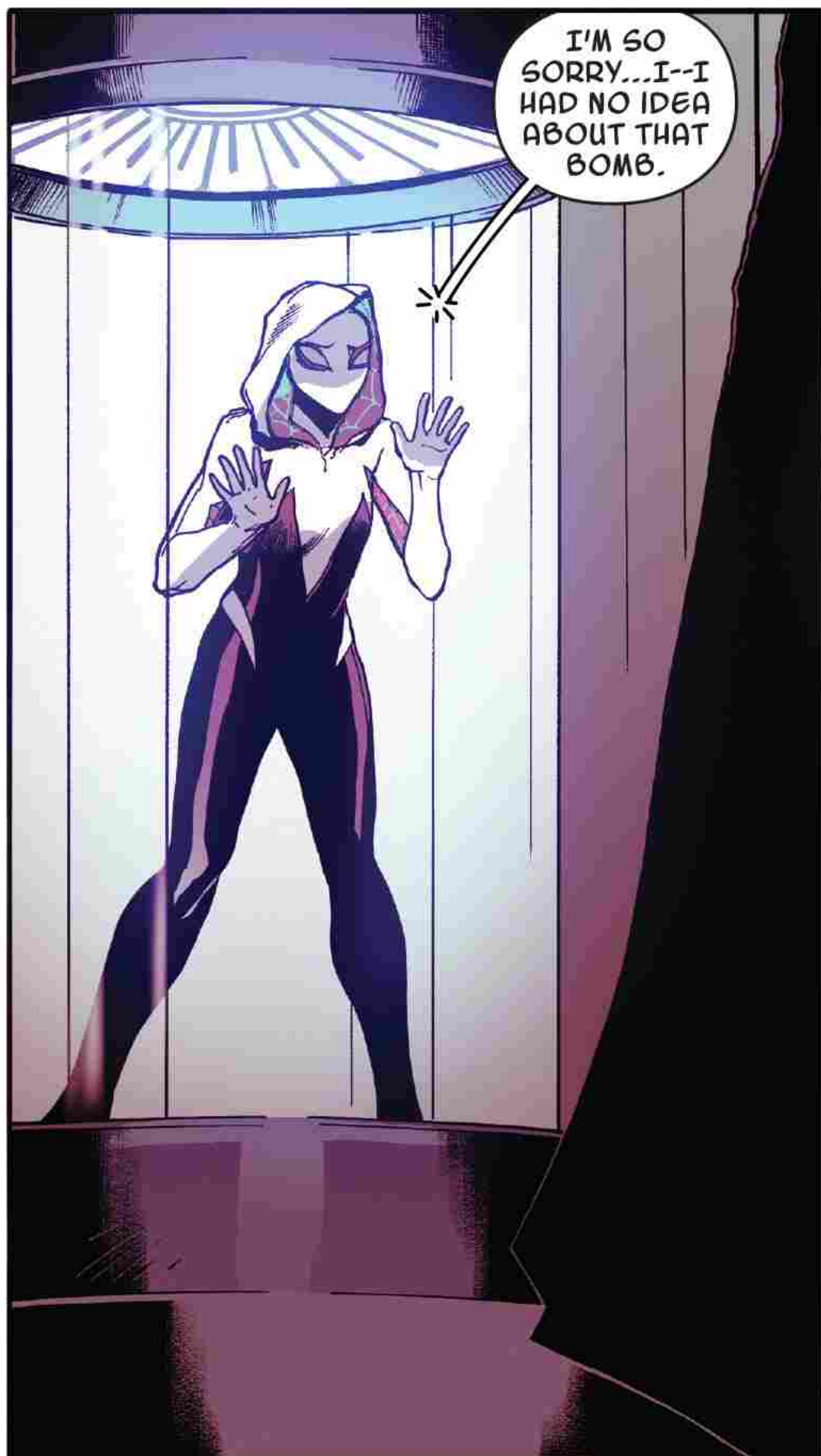
GHOST SPIDER, I JUST WANTED TO THANK YOU IN PERSON FOR YOUR BRAVE ACTIONS IN YOUR BATTLE AGAINST THE MYSTERIOUS VILLAINS.

NOBODY IS SURE WHERE THEY CAME FROM, OR WHERE THEY WENT. BUT WHAT WE DO KNOW IS THAT WE ARE THANKFUL THAT YOU INTERVENED!

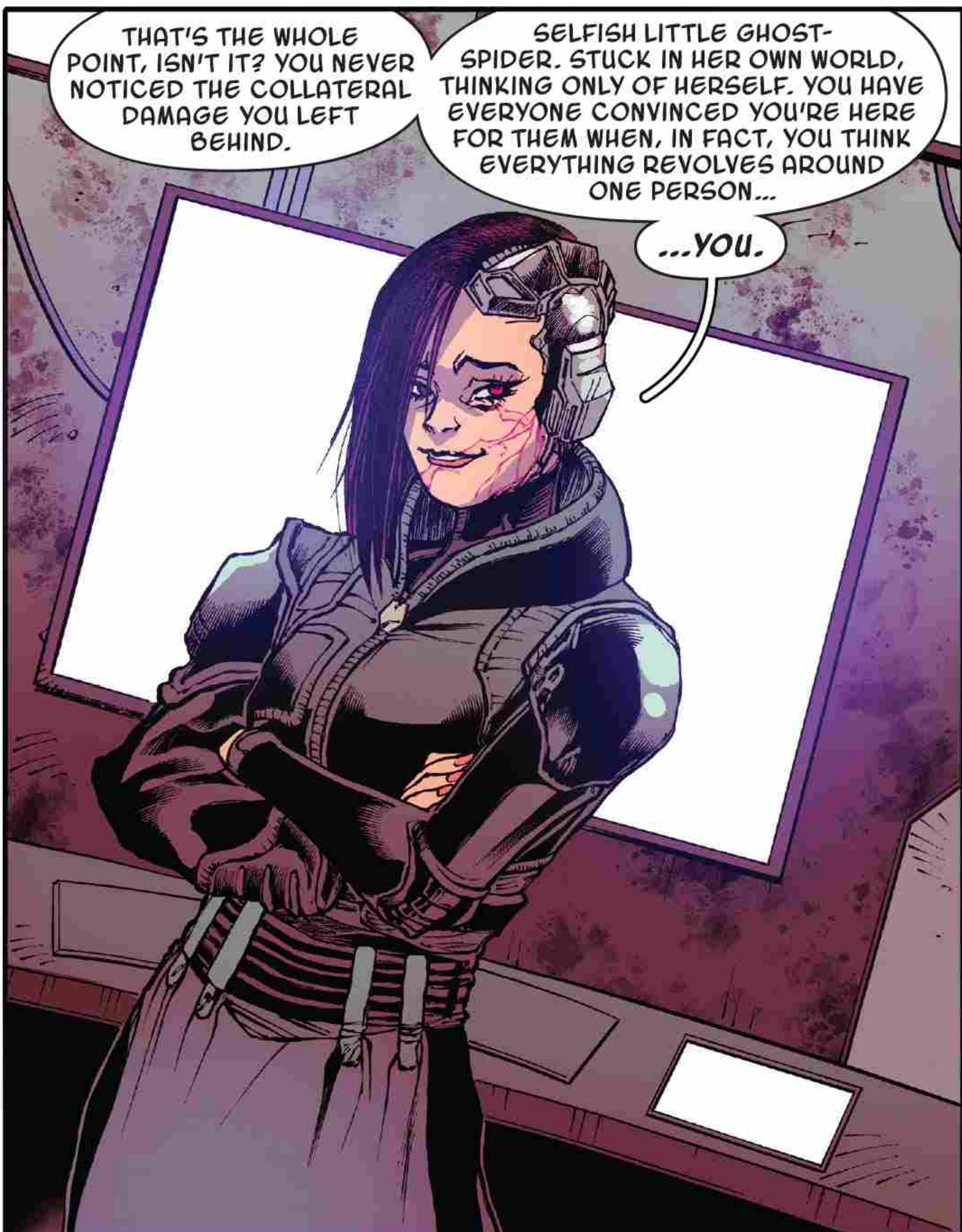


TO PUT IT SIMPLY, YOU SAVED US ALL. YOU'RE OUR HERO.

"SAVED US ALL." 'HERO.' I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT."



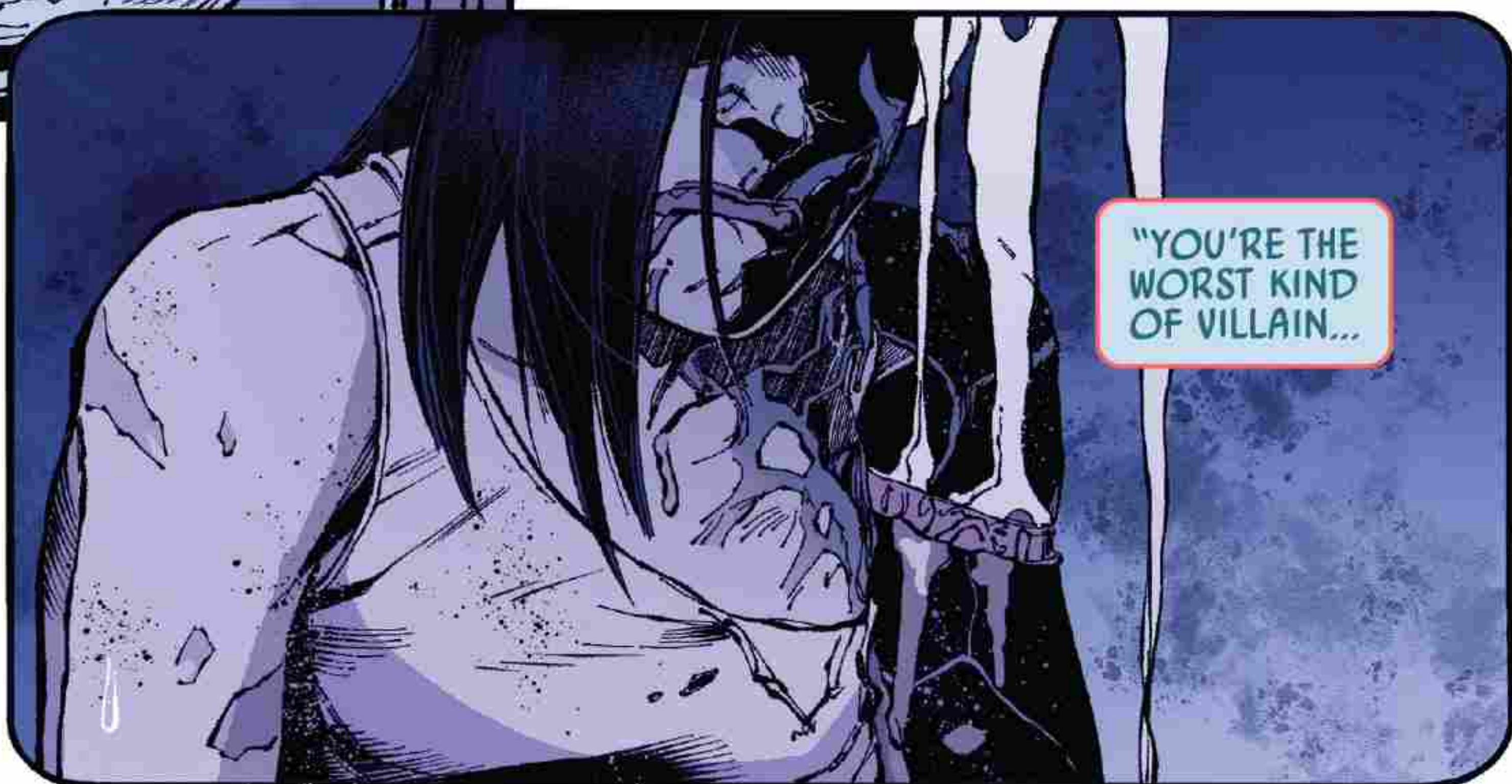
I'M SO SORRY...I--I HAD NO IDEA ABOUT THAT BOMB.

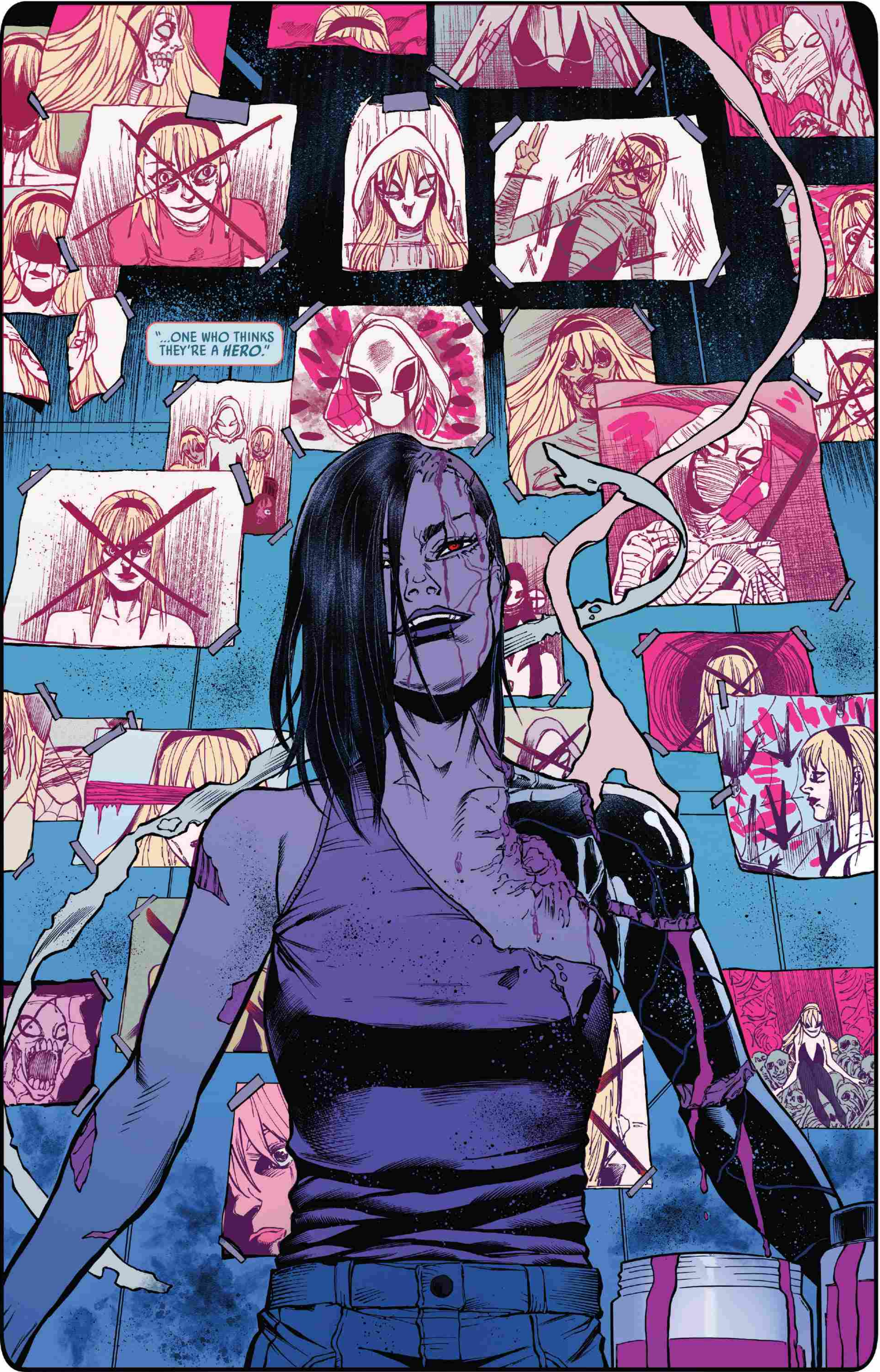


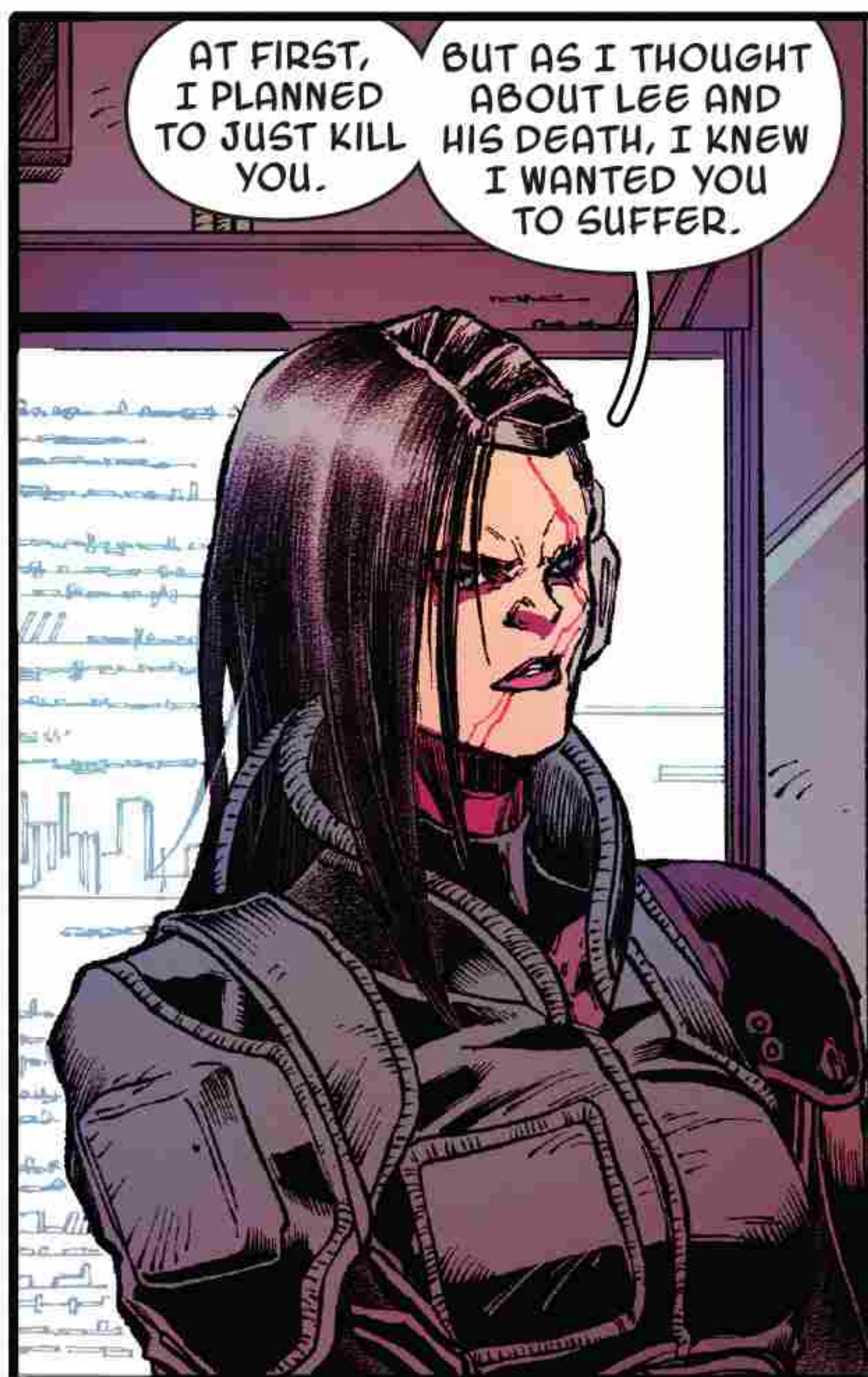
THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT, ISN'T IT? YOU NEVER NOTICED THE COLLATERAL DAMAGE YOU LEFT BEHIND.

SELFISH LITTLE GHOST-SPIDER. STUCK IN HER OWN WORLD, THINKING ONLY OF HERSELF. YOU HAVE EVERYONE CONVINCED YOU'RE HERE FOR THEM WHEN, IN FACT, YOU THINK EVERYTHING REVOLVES AROUND ONE PERSON...

...YOU.







AT FIRST, I PLANNED TO JUST KILL YOU.

BUT AS I THOUGHT ABOUT LEE AND HIS DEATH, I KNEW I WANTED YOU TO SUFFER.



THOSE PEOPLE YOU FOUGHT WERE TOUGH... AND INTERESTING HOW THEY SEEMED TO COME OUT OF NOWHERE...

LUCKILY, I STILL HAD ACCESS TO THE STARK MAINFRAME DATABASE... I HAD HOPED HE HAD SOME INFORMATION ON YOUR MYSTERIOUS FRIENDS. WHO KNEW IT WOULD LEAD ME TO SOMETHING MUCH BIGGER... A MULTIVERSE.

THATS WHEN I LEARNED, THERE MUST BE OTHER VERSIONS OF YOU OUT THERE.

SO WHAT GOOD WOULD IT BE TO KILL ONE GWEN STACY WHEN THERE ARE AN INFINITE NUMBER OF YOU OUT THERE?



I FOUND A SCHEMATIC FROM THE STARK DATABASE FOR A MACHINE THAT COULD SCAN FOR SIGNALS ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE. IT WAS INTENDED TO BE A COMMUNICATION DEVICE.

I REALIZED I COULD MODIFY THE DEVICE AND CREATE EXACTLY WHAT I NEEDED.



I USED ALL MY GRANT FUNDING, NOT THAT STARK EVER KNEW...

THE QUANTUM POWER SOURCE WAS THE LAST PIECE. NOW...MY MASTERPIECE IS COMPLETE.

A MULTI-DIMENSIONAL TRANSMITTER.

"IT CAN USE YOUR BIOENERGY SIGNATURE TO LOCK ONTO OTHERS WITH THE SAME COSMIC-VIBRATIONAL FREQUENCY."

Loading...

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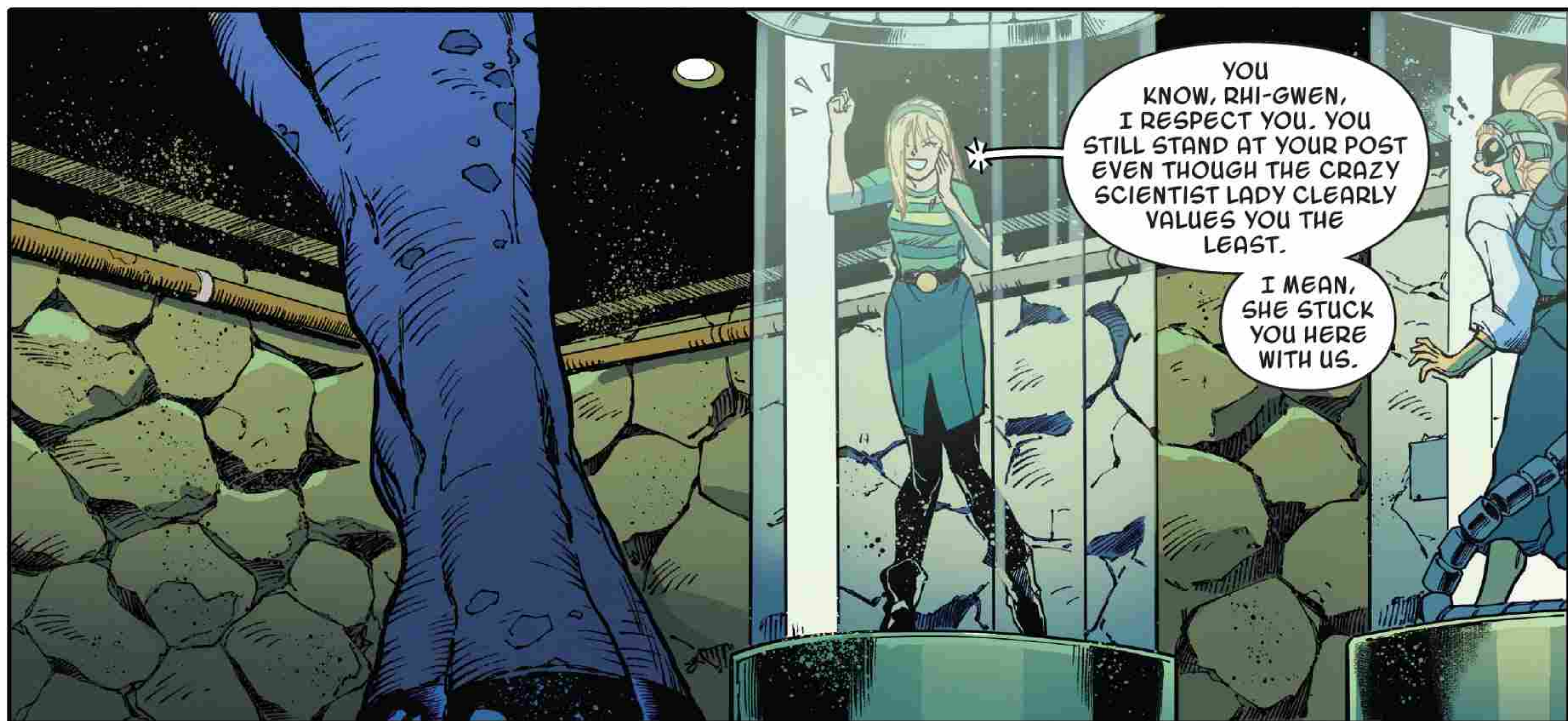
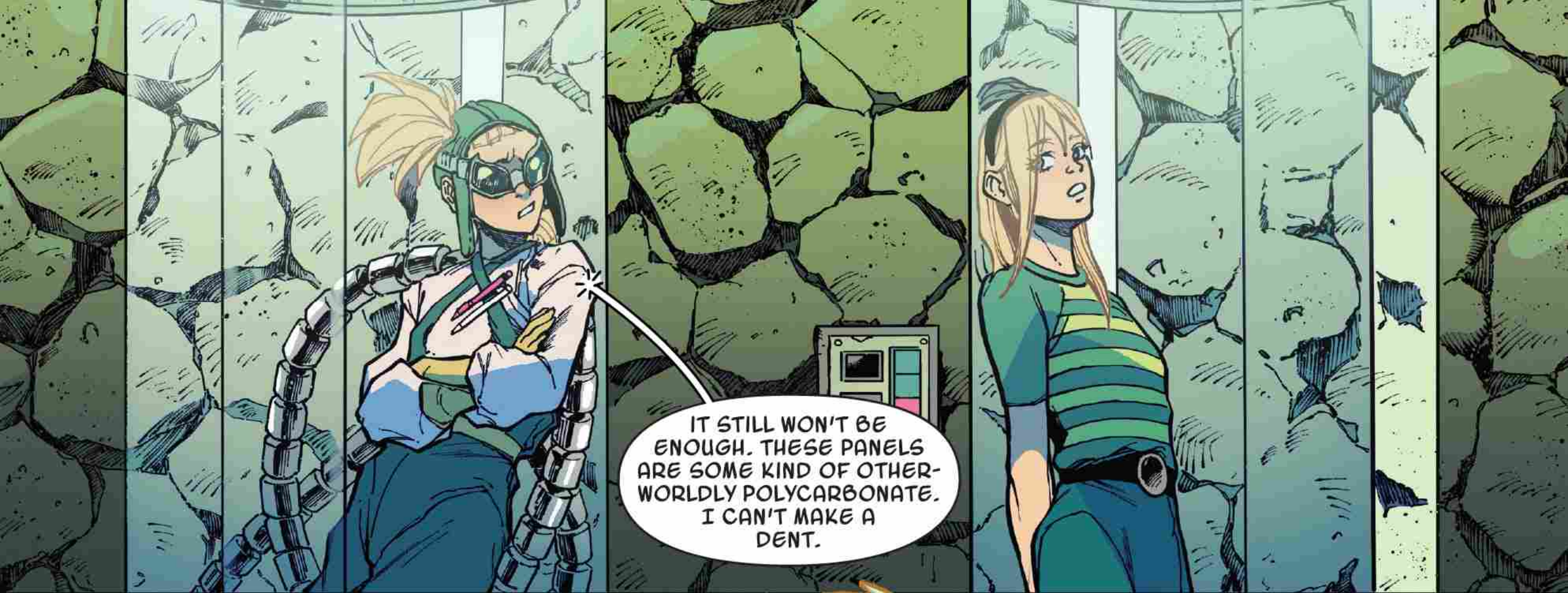
OTHERS?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN
OTHERS?

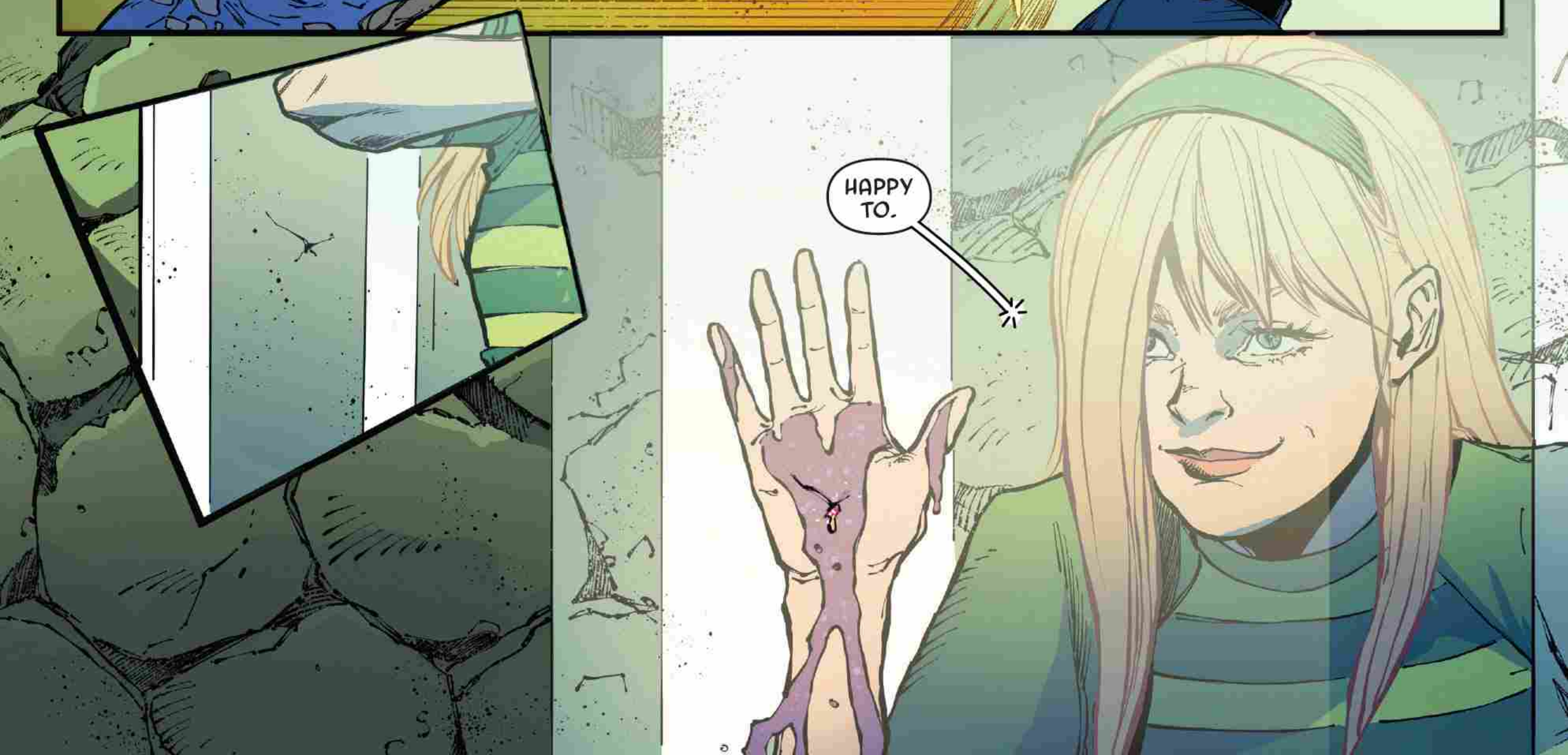
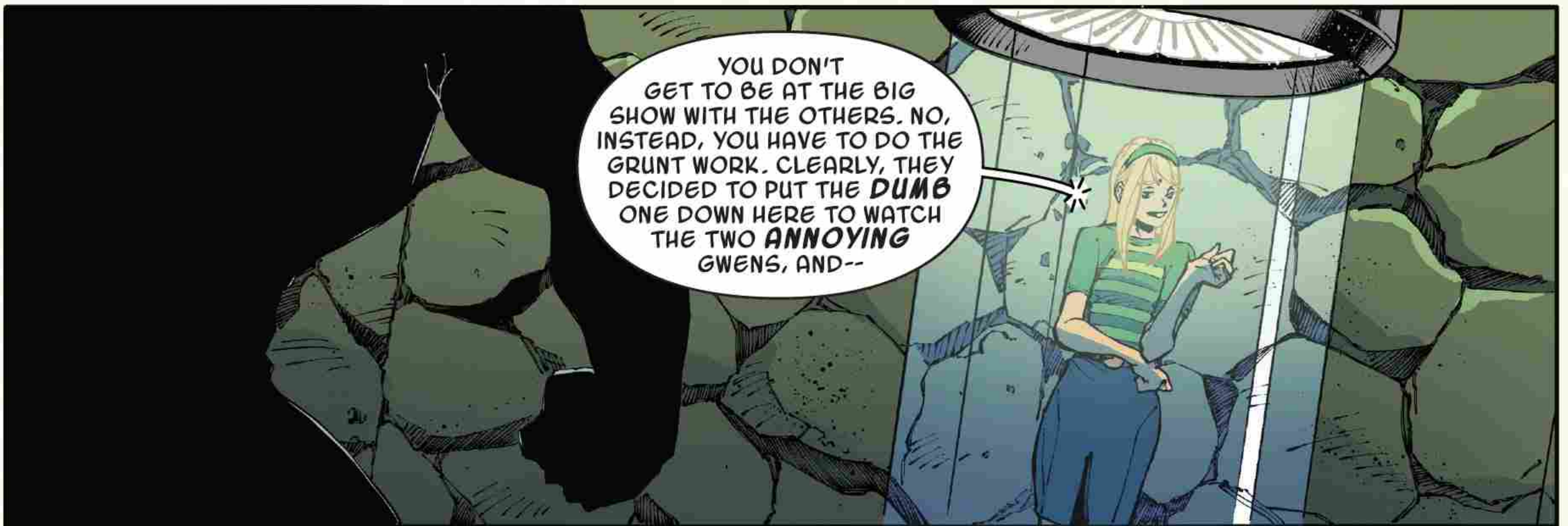
WHAT I MEAN IS THAT
I CAN DELIVER A MASSIVE
ENERGY OVERLOAD TO FLOW
THROUGH ANYONE WITH
YOUR SIGNATURE.

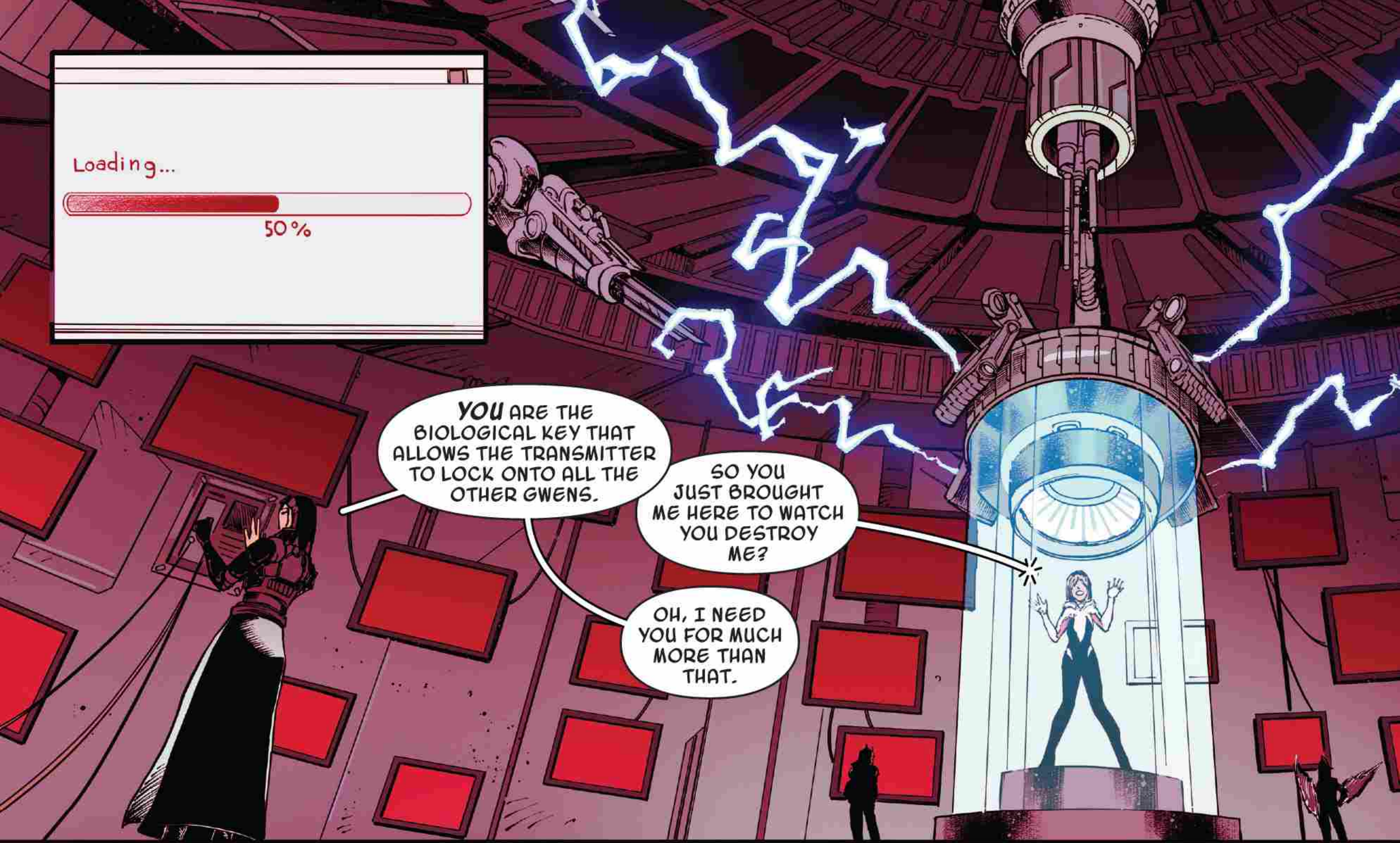
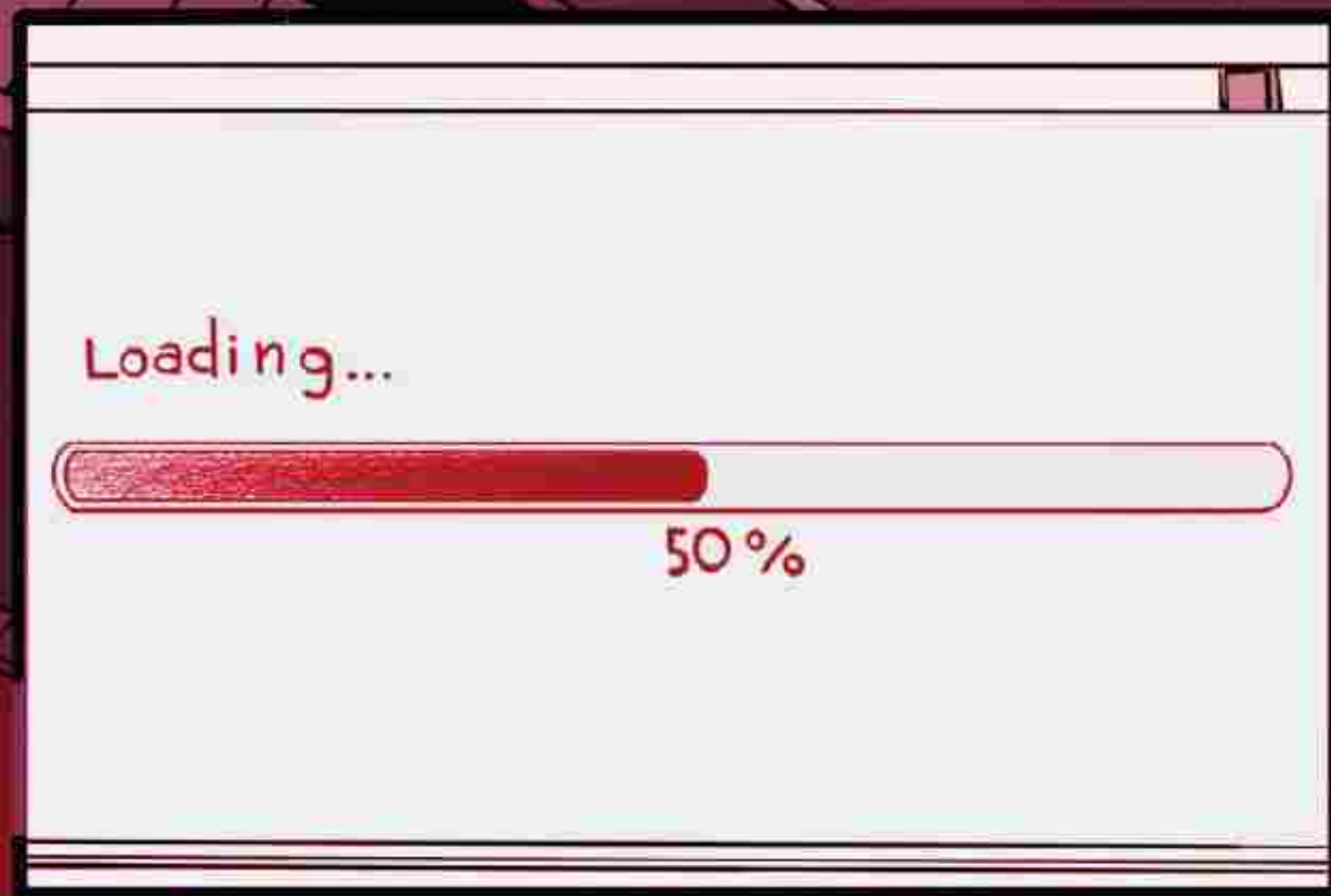
OH MY
GOD....

ONCE
THE TRANSMITTER
IS ACTIVE, I'M GOING
TO **KILL EVERY GWEN
STACY IN THE
MULTIVERSE.**

"MAYBE IF YOU
CONCENTRATE THE
STRENGTH OF ALL
YOUR TENTACLES
INTO ONE SHOT?"







YOU ARE THE BIOLOGICAL KEY THAT ALLOWS THE TRANSMITTER TO LOCK ONTO ALL THE OTHER GWENS.

SO YOU JUST BROUGHT ME HERE TO WATCH YOU DESTROY ME?

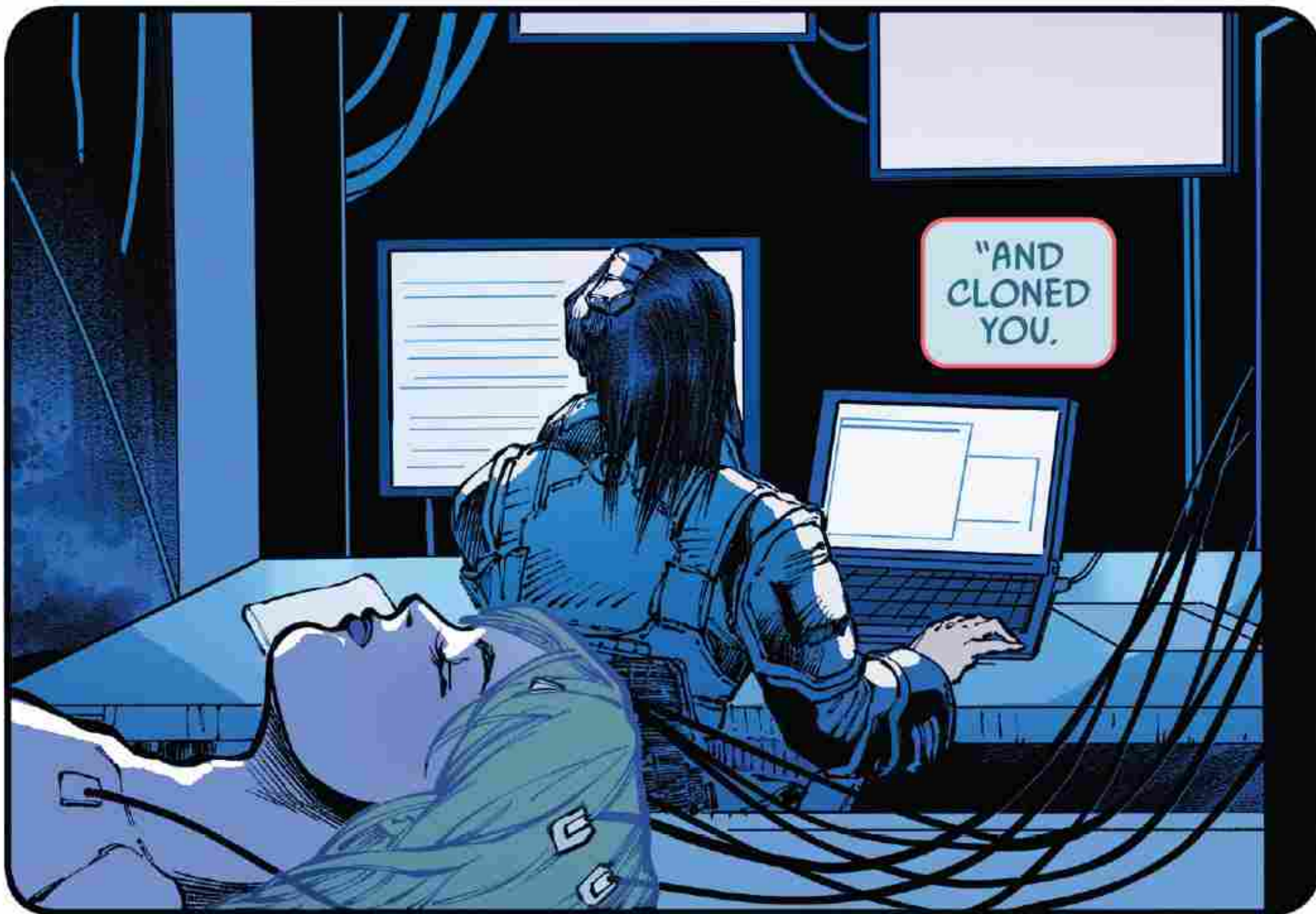
OH, I NEED YOU FOR MUCH MORE THAN THAT.



"A CLONE MIGHT NOT FOOL ME, BUT I THOUGHT MAYBE IT COULD FOOL THE TRANSMITTER. SO I FIGURED I'D USE A CLONE OF YOU AS THE KEY.



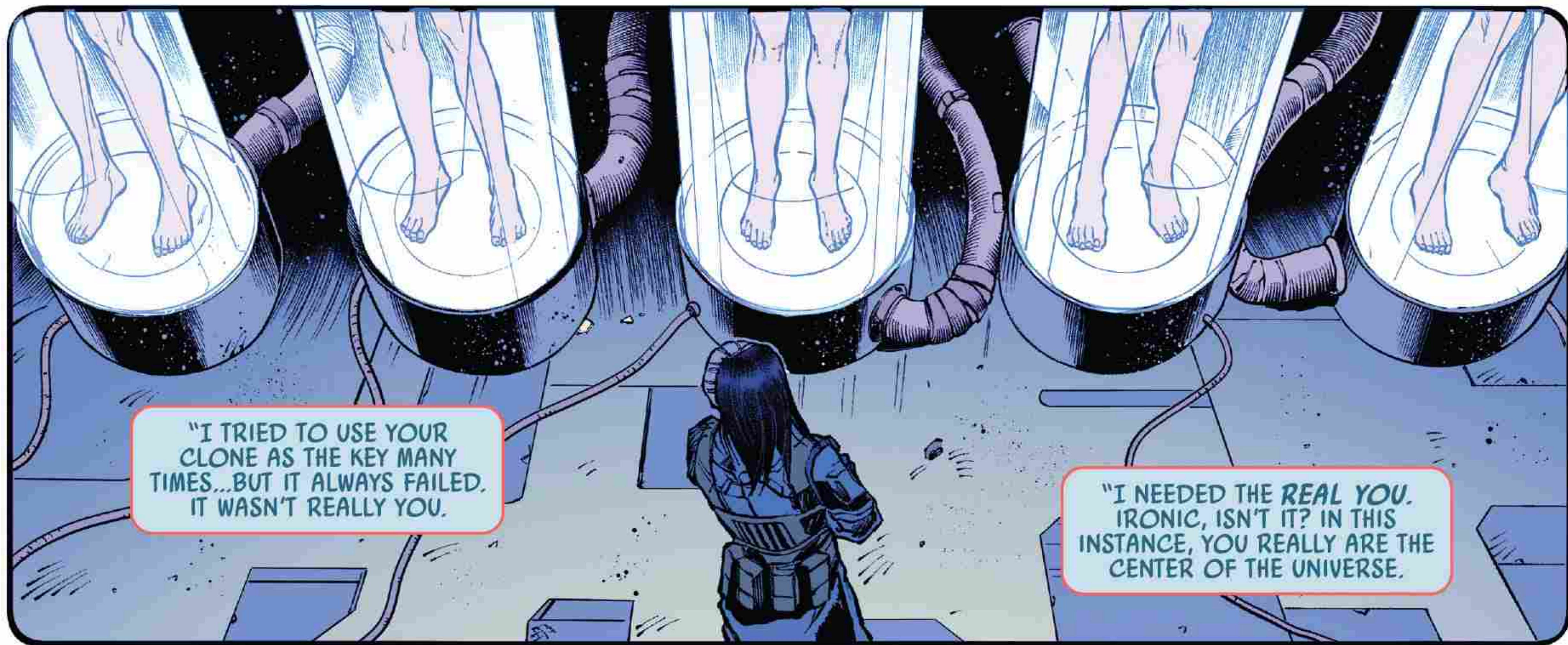
"I GATHERED YOUR DNA FROM BLOOD YOU SPILLED AT THE BATTLE...



"AND CLONED YOU.



"BUT THE TRANSMITTER COULDN'T BE FOOLED EITHER.



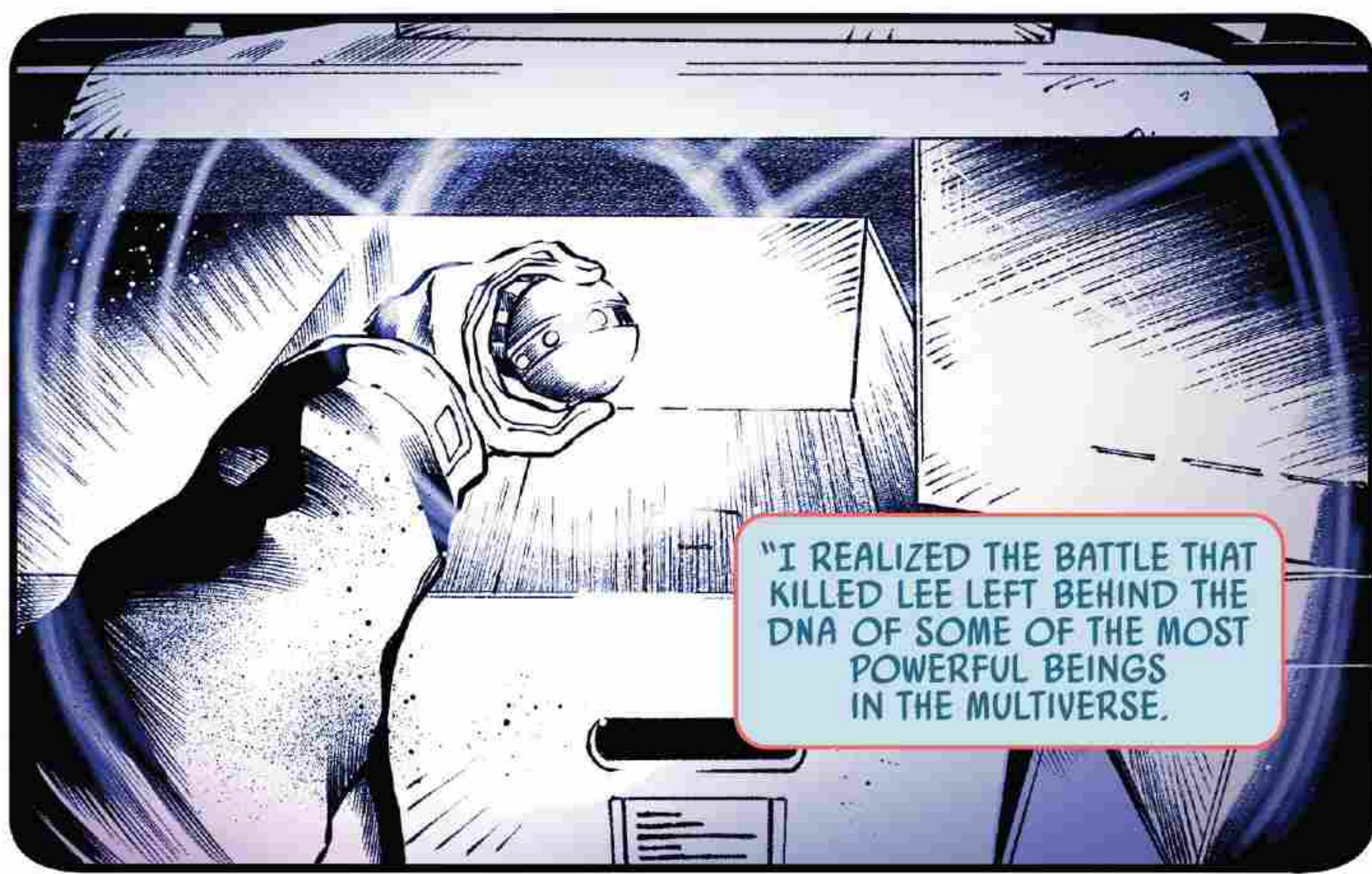
"I TRIED TO USE YOUR CLONE AS THE KEY MANY TIMES...BUT IT ALWAYS FAILED. IT WASN'T REALLY YOU.

"I NEEDED THE *REAL* YOU. IRONIC, ISN'T IT? IN THIS INSTANCE, YOU REALLY ARE THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE.



"BUT I COULDN'T CAPTURE YOU BY MYSELF...

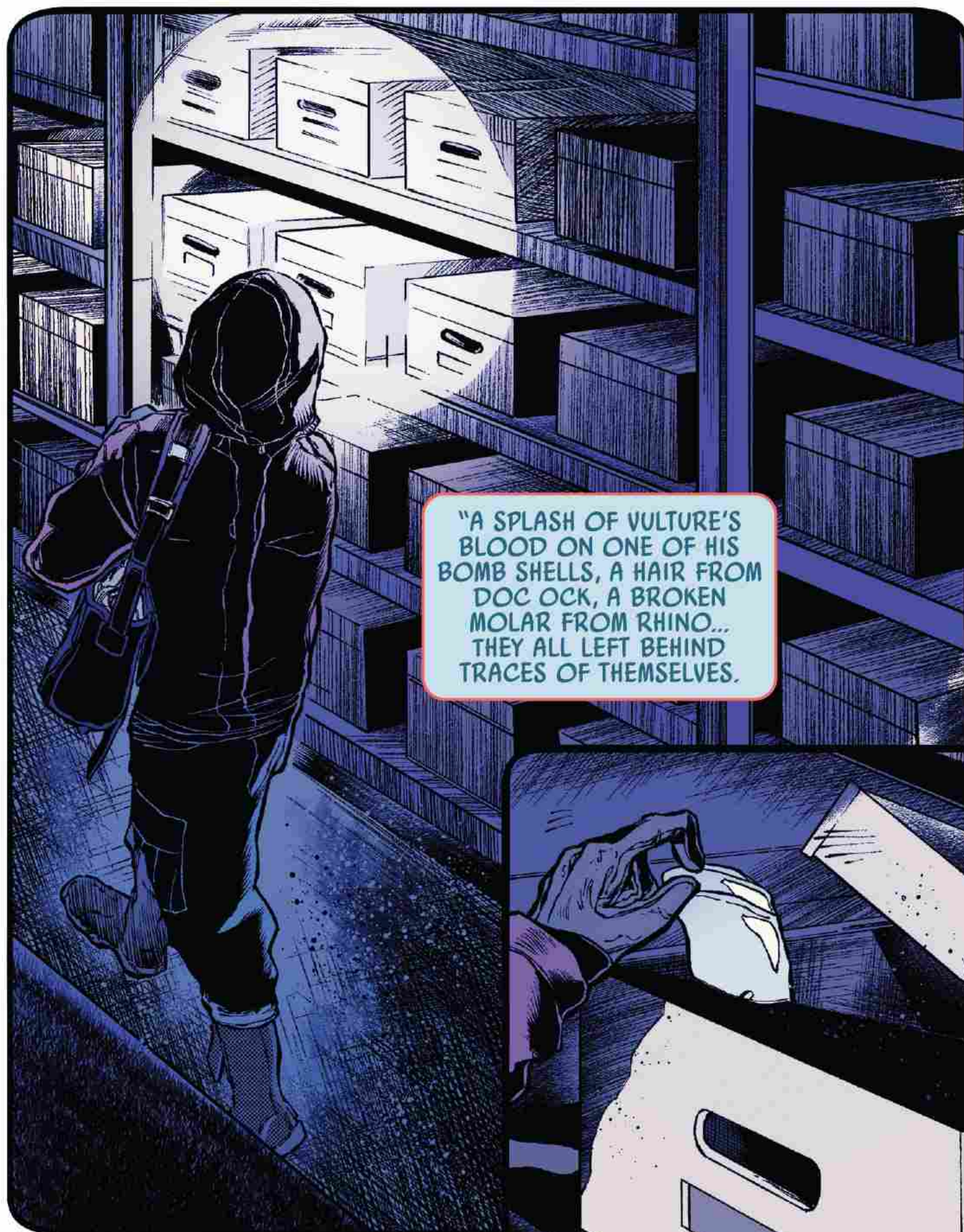
"...SO INSTEAD OF DESTROYING YOUR CLONES, I DECIDED TO TURN THEM INTO MY PERSONAL SOLDIERS.



"I REALIZED THE BATTLE THAT KILLED LEE LEFT BEHIND THE DNA OF SOME OF THE MOST POWERFUL BEINGS IN THE MULTIVERSE.



"I ALSO LEARNED FROM THE STARK DATABASE THAT THEY'RE MORE COMMONLY KNOWN ON EARTH-616 AS THE *SINISTER SIX*.



"A SPLASH OF VULTURE'S BLOOD ON ONE OF HIS BOMB SHELLS, A HAIR FROM DOC OCK, A BROKEN MOLAR FROM RHINO... THEY ALL LEFT BEHIND TRACES OF THEMSELVES.

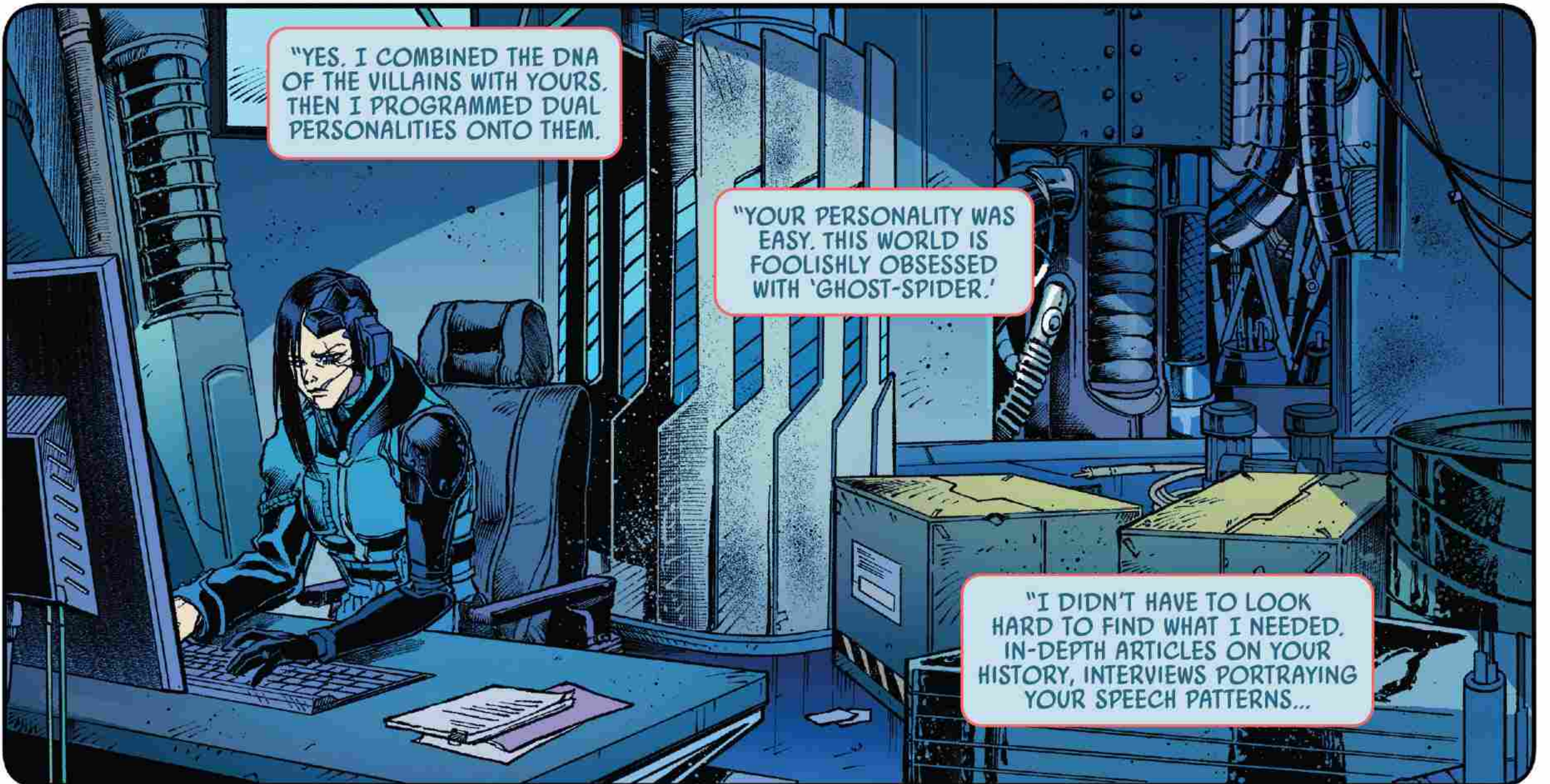


HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE?

YOUR DAD LET ME IN ON HIS WAY OUT. HE WAS IN A BIG RUSH. APPARENTLY, **SOMEONE BROKE** INTO THE POLICE STATION AND **STOLE** SOME **EVIDENCE**.



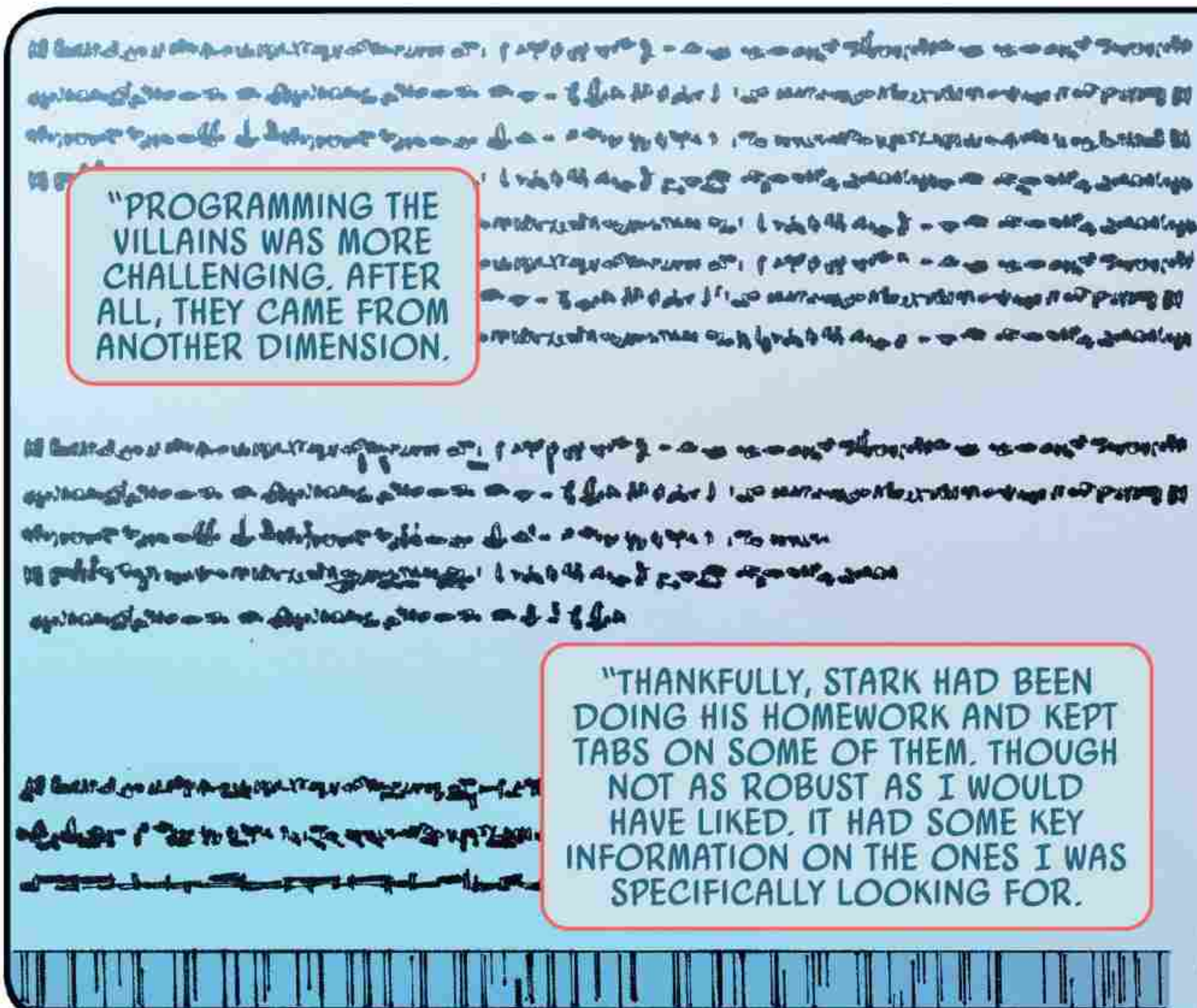
YOU WERE BEHIND THE POLICE BREAK-INS.



"YES. I COMBINED THE DNA OF THE VILLAINS WITH YOURS. THEN I PROGRAMMED DUAL PERSONALITIES ONTO THEM.

"YOUR PERSONALITY WAS EASY. THIS WORLD IS FOOLISHLY OBSESSED WITH 'GHOST-SPIDER.'

"I DIDN'T HAVE TO LOOK HARD TO FIND WHAT I NEEDED. IN-DEPTH ARTICLES ON YOUR HISTORY, INTERVIEWS PORTRAYING YOUR SPEECH PATTERNS...

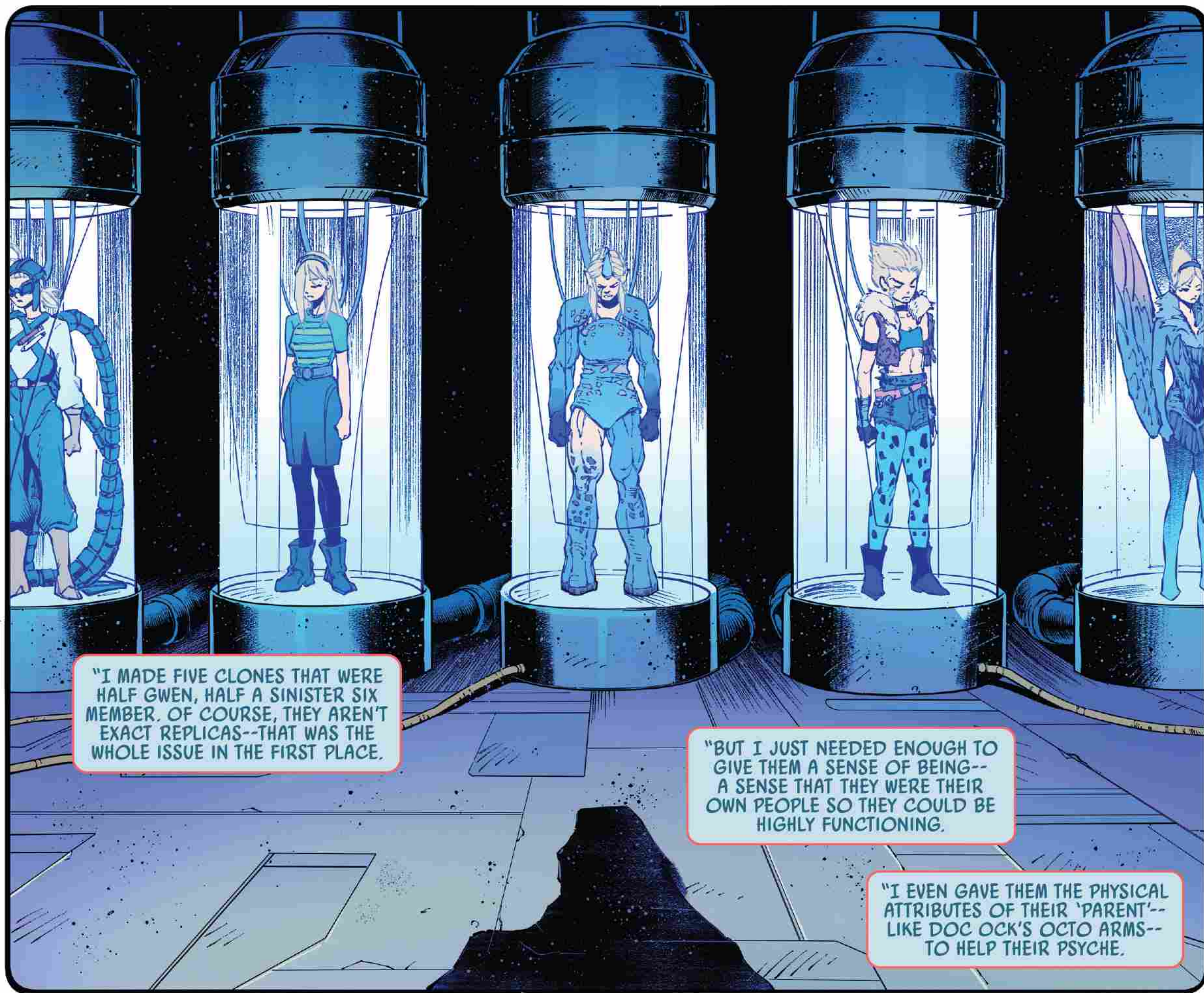


"PROGRAMMING THE VILLAINS WAS MORE CHALLENGING. AFTER ALL, THEY CAME FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION.

"THANKFULLY, STARK HAD BEEN DOING HIS HOMEWORK AND KEPT TABS ON SOME OF THEM. THOUGH NOT AS ROBUST AS I WOULD HAVE LIKED. IT HAD SOME KEY INFORMATION ON THE ONES I WAS SPECIFICALLY LOOKING FOR.

SANDMAN'S REVEALING YOUTH.

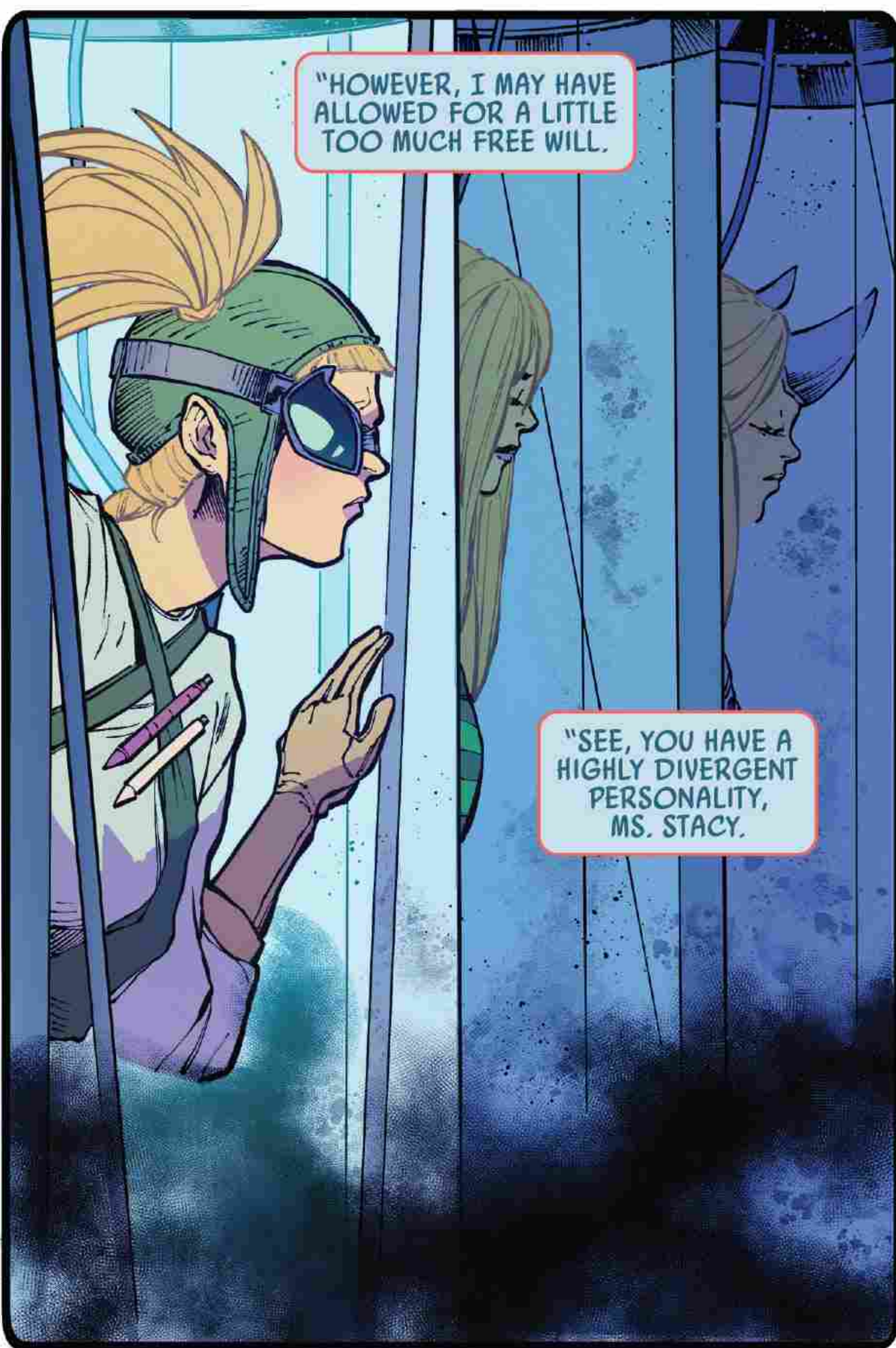




"I MADE FIVE CLONES THAT WERE HALF GWEN, HALF A SINISTER SIX MEMBER. OF COURSE, THEY AREN'T EXACT REPLICAS--THAT WAS THE WHOLE ISSUE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

"BUT I JUST NEEDED ENOUGH TO GIVE THEM A SENSE OF BEING-- A SENSE THAT THEY WERE THEIR OWN PEOPLE SO THEY COULD BE HIGHLY FUNCTIONING.

"I EVEN GAVE THEM THE PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES OF THEIR 'PARENT'-- LIKE DOC OCK'S OCTO ARMS-- TO HELP THEIR PSYCHE.



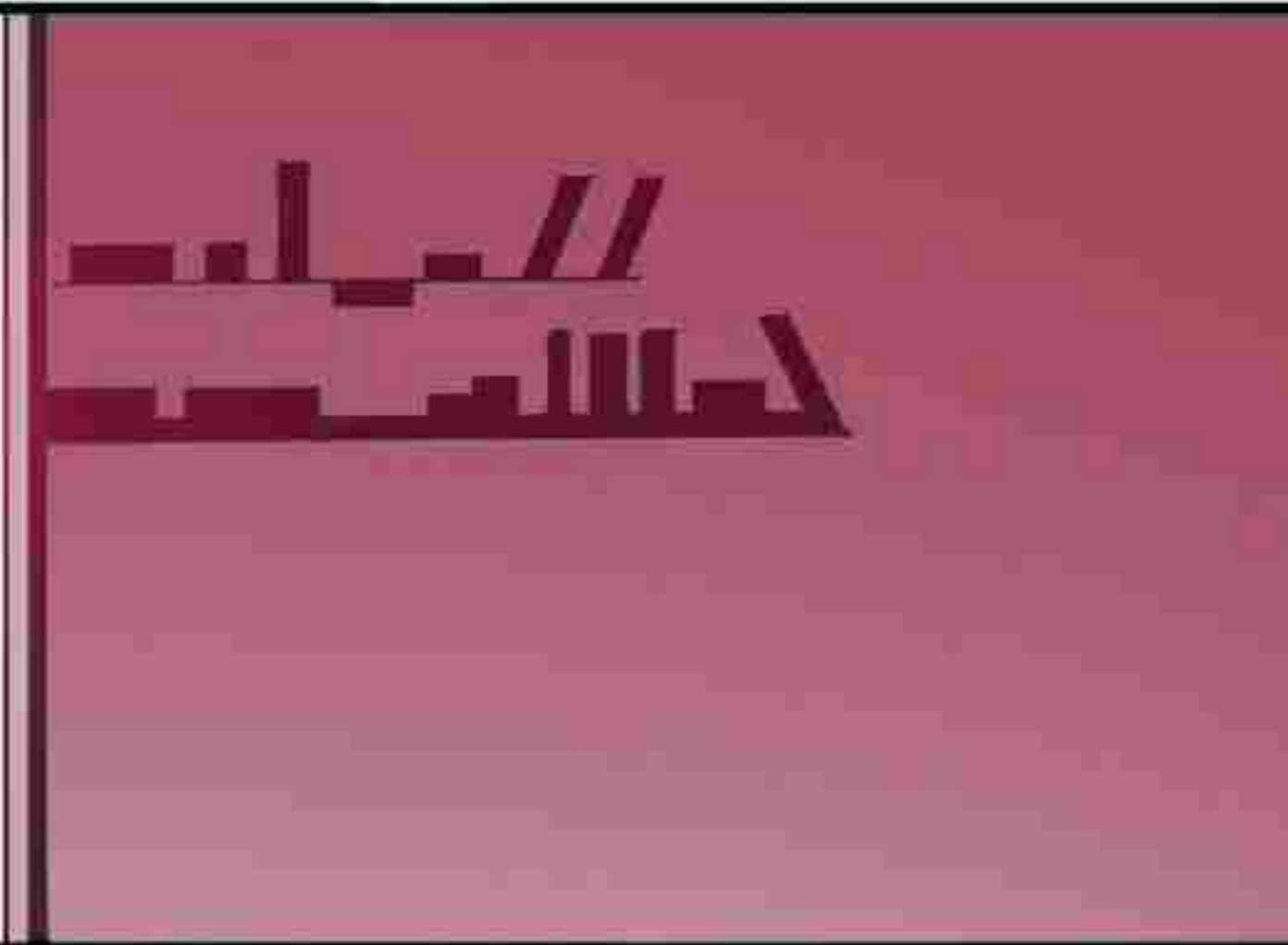
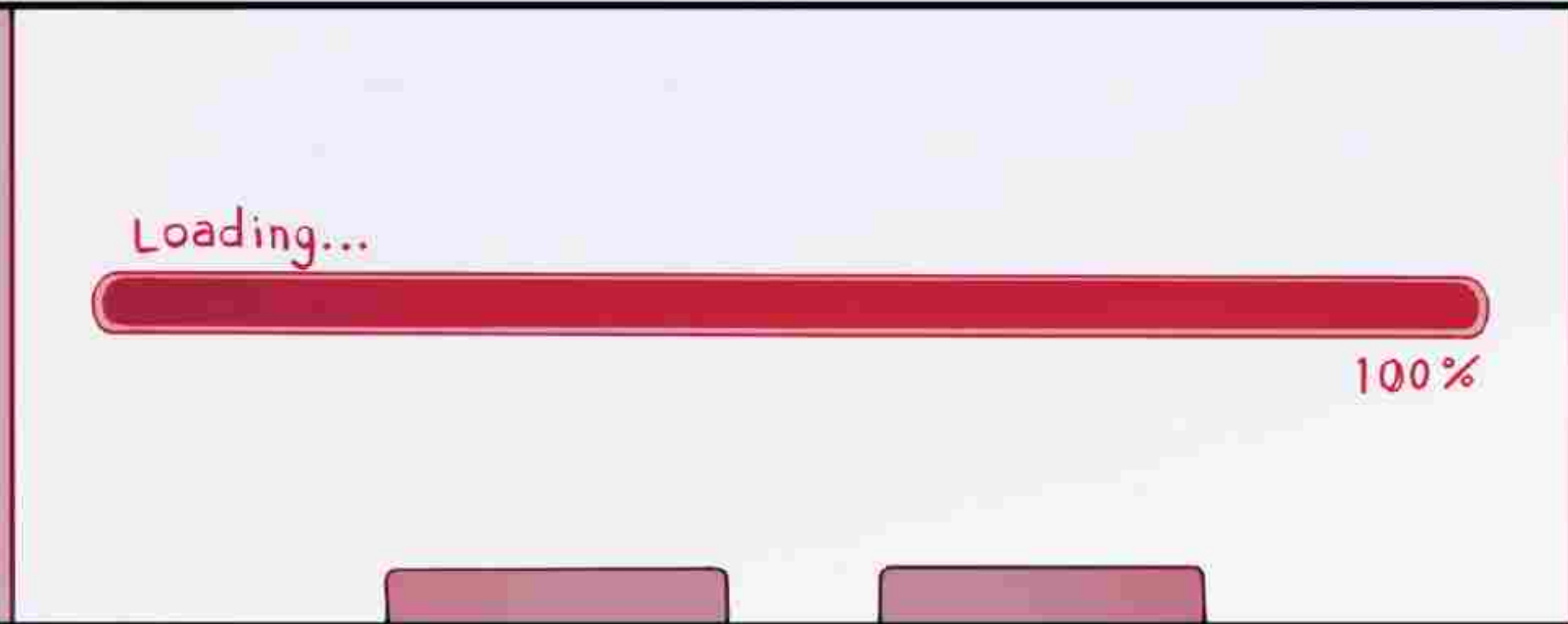
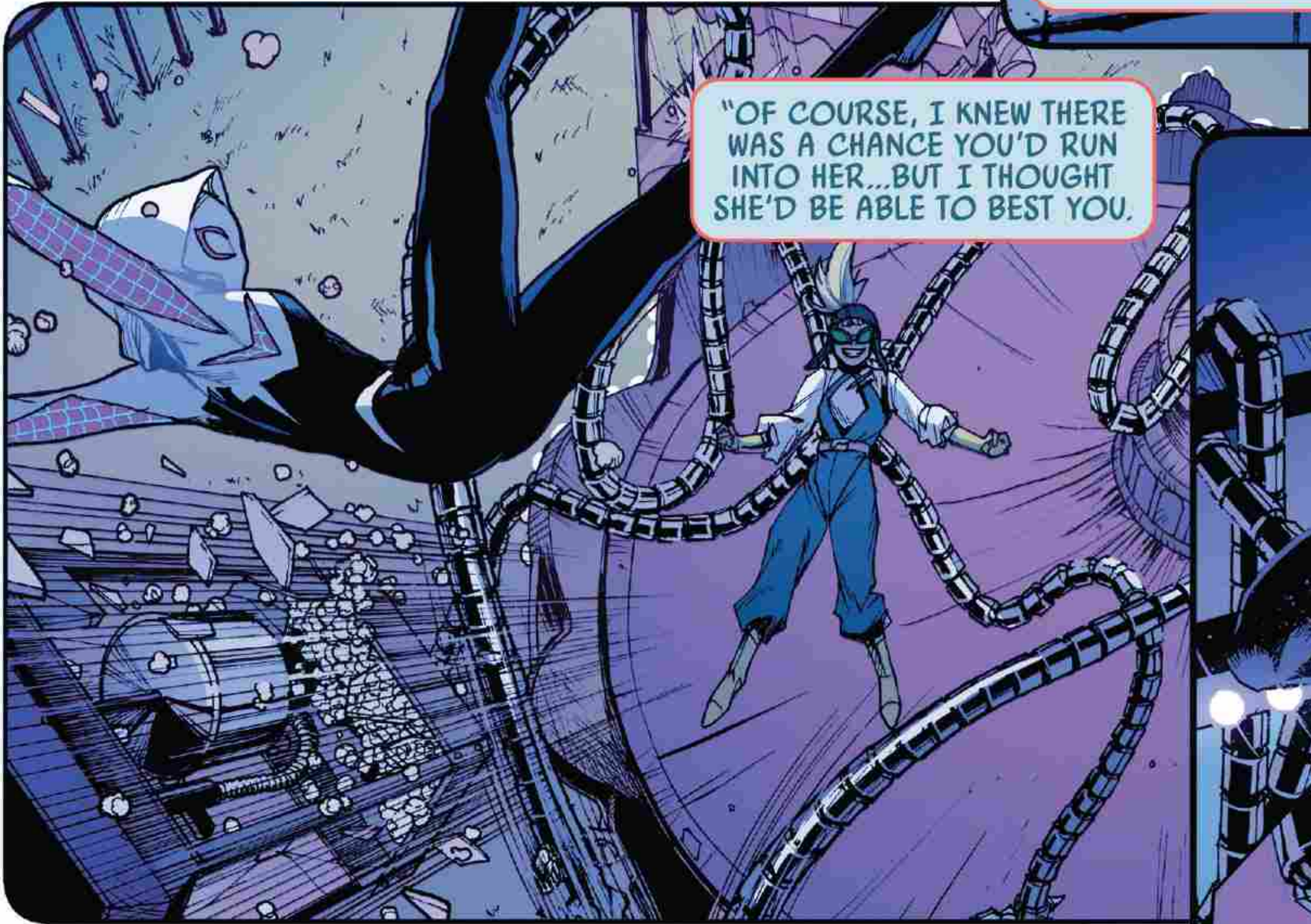
"HOWEVER, I MAY HAVE ALLOWED FOR A LITTLE TOO MUCH FREE WILL.

"SEE, YOU HAVE A HIGHLY DIVERGENT PERSONALITY, MS. STACY.



"SO WHEN I COMPLETED THE FIRST UPLOAD WITH GWEN OCK, SHE WASN'T EXACTLY A TEAM PLAYER.

WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING HERE...?





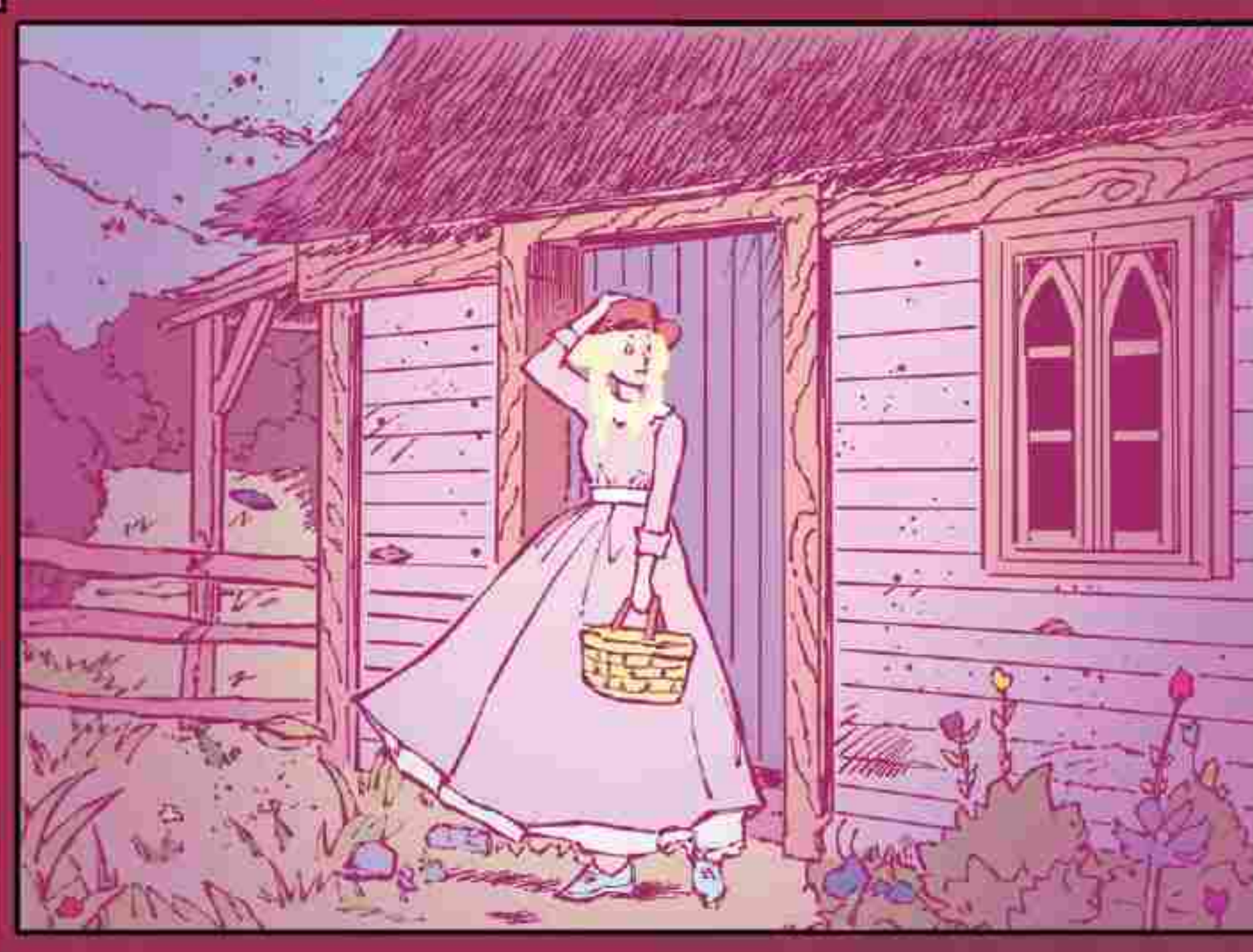
AS IS ANY
CHANCE I HAD
FOR LOVE.

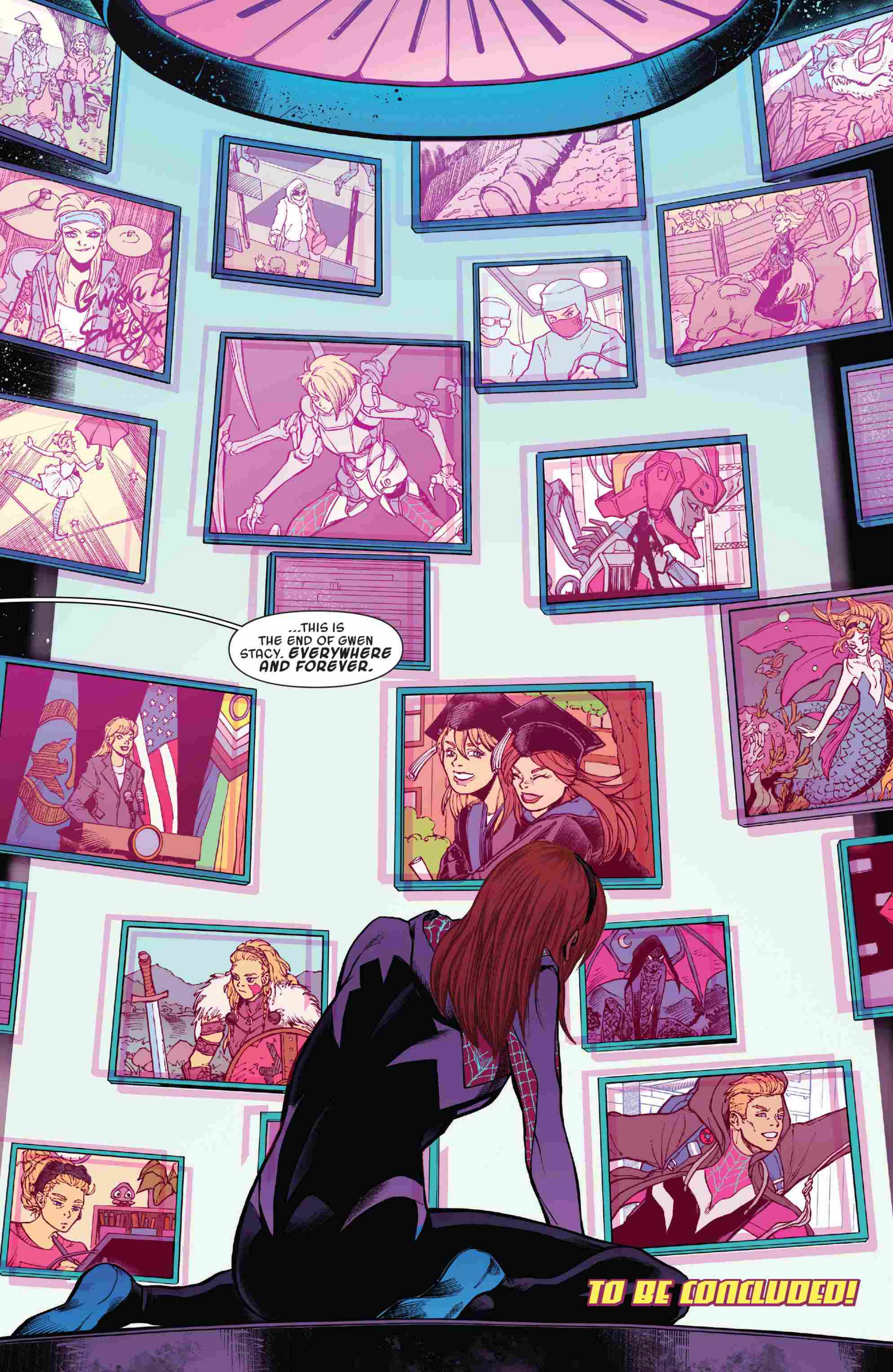


BUT WHAT
IS ALIVE...WHAT'S
LEFT IN MY HEART...
IS ONE THING.

VENGEANCE.

NOW...





...THIS IS
THE END OF GWEN
STACY. EVERYWHERE
AND FOREVER.

TO BE CONCLUDED!

NEXT ISSUE:

GRIEF AND REVENGE

DOCTOR LYLA BENNETT'S REVENGE AGAINST ALL GWENS IS COMPLETE! WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR OUR VERY OWN GHOST-SPIDER AND HER CLONES? DON'T MISS THE CHILLING FINALE OF GWEN'S CLONE-TASTIC STORY, ONE THAT WILL CHANGE SPIDER-GWEN AS WE KNOW HER!



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